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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

ANNUAL REPORT

20 MAY 1990 - 13 MAY 1991

Economic and Social Council
Official Records, 1991

Supplement No. 16

UNITED NATIONS

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1676.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AAC	African Association of Cartography
AAF-SAP	African Alternative Framework for Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-economic Recovery and Transformation
AAPAM	African Association for Public Administration and Management
AAPSO	Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization
AAS	African Academy of Sciences
AATPO	Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations
AAU	Association of African Universities
ACABQ	Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions
ACARTSOD	African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development
ACC	Administrative Committee on Co-ordination
ACI	African Cultural Institute
ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific Group
ACMAD	African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development
ACMS	African Centre for Monetary Studies
ADB	African Development Bank
AFSA	African Statistical Association
AGRIS	Agricultural Information System
AHSCP	African Household Survey Capability Programme
AIDF	African Industrial Development Fund
AIHTTR	African Institute for Higher Technical Training and Research
ALO	Arab Labour Organization
ANC	African National Congress
ANSTI	African Network of Science and Technology Institutes
AOCRS	African Organization for Cartography and Remote Sensing
APPER	Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery
ARCC	Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development
ARCEDEM	African Regional Centre for Engineering, Design and Manufacturing
ARCSE	African Regional Centre for Solar Energy
ARCT	African Regional Centre for Technology
ARI	African Rehabilitation Institute for Disabled Persons
ARSC	African Remote Sensing Council
ARSO	African Regional Organization for Standardization
ARSP	African Remote Sensing Programme
ASTIS	African Science and Technology Information System
ASYCUDA	Automated System for Customs Data
ATRCW	African Training and Research Centre for Women
BADEA	Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa
BCEAC	Banque centrale des Etats de l'Afrique centrale
BCEAO	Central Bank of West African States
BOAD	West African Development Bank
CACH	Central African Clearing House
CADIS	Central African Development Information System
CAFRAD	African Centre for Administrative Training and Research for Development
CAMRDC	Central African Mineral Resources Development Centre
CDP	Committee for Development Planning
CEAO	Economic Community of West Africa
CEPGL	Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries
CILSS	Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel
CIRDAFRICA	Centre for Integrated Rural Development in Africa
CMEA	Council for Mutual Economic Assistance
CODESRIA	Council for the Development of Economic and Social Research in Africa
CPC	Committee for Programme and Co-ordination
CRTO	Regional Remote Sensing Centre, Ouagadougou
CRTK	Regional Remote Sensing Centre, Kinshasa
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DIESA	Department of International Economic and Social Affairs
DLCO-EA	Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa
DTCD	Department of Technical Co-operation for Development
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States

ECDC	Economic co-operation among developing countries
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECLO	Emergency Centre for Locust Operations (FAO)
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council of the United Nations
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EDF	European Development Fund
EDI	Economic Development Institute of the World Bank
EEC	European Economic Community
EIB	European Investment Bank
ESADIS	East and Southern African Development Information System
ESAMI	Eastern and Southern African Management Institute
ESAMRDC	Eastern and Southern African Mineral Resources Development Centre
FACC	Federation of African Chambers of Commerce
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
IACC	Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
IAWGD	Inter-agency Working Group on Desertification
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ICC	International Chamber of Commerce
ICID	International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage
ICIPE	International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology
ICM	Intergovernmental Committee for Migration
IDA	International Development Association
IDB	Islamic Development Bank
IDDA	Industrial Development Decade for Africa
IDEP	African Institute for Economic Development and Planning
IDNDR	International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction
IDRC	International Development Research Centre of Canada
IDWSSD	International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFORD	Institute de formation et de recherche démographiques
IGADD	Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development
IHO	International Hydrographic Organization
ILCA	International Livestock Centre for Africa
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INSTRAW	United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women
IOC	Indian Ocean Commission
IPPF	International Planned Parenthood Federation
ISI	International Statistical Institute
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
IUSSP	International Union for the Scientific Study of Population
JASPA	Jobs and Skills Programme for Africa
JIU	Joint Inspection Unit
KBO	Kagera Basin Organization
LAS	League of Arab States
LCBC	Lake Chad Basin Commission
LDCs	Least developed countries
LPA	Lagos Plan of Action
LWF	Lutheran World Federation
MU	Maghreb Union
MULPOC	Multinational Programming and Operational Centre
NACP	National Accounts Capability Programme
NADIS	North African Documentation and Information Centre
NATCAPs	National Technical Co-operation Assessments and Programmes
NBA	Niger Basin Authority
OAU	Organization of African Unity
OCLALAV	Organisation commune de lutte antiacridienne et antiavaire
ODA	Official development assistance
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development

OMVG	Organization for the Development of the Gambia River
OMVS	Organization for the Development of the Senegal River
PAC	Pan-African Congress of Azania
PADIS	Pan-African Documentation and Information System
PANA	Pan-African News Agency
PANAFTEL	Pan-African Telecommunications Network
POPIN	Population Information System for Africa
PTA	Preferential Trade Area
RASCOM	Regional African Satellite Communications System
RASDS	Regional Advisory Service in Demographic Statistics
RBA	Regional Bureau for Africa (UNDP)
RBASEP	Regional Bureau for Arab States and European Programmes
RCSSMRS	Regional Centre for Services in Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing
RECTAS	Regional Centre for Training in Aerospace Surveys
RIPS	Regional Institute for Population Studies
SADCC	Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference
SAP	Structural adjustment programme
SAPAM	Special Action Programme for Administration and Management in Africa
SAREC	Swedish Agency for Research Co-operation with Developing Countries
SDI	Selective Dissemination of Information
SFD	Saudi Fund for Development
SNPA	Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries
STAP	Subregional Technical Assistance Programmes
STPA	Statistical Training Programme for Africa
SWAPO	South-West Africa People's Organization
SWMTEP	System-Wide Medium-Term Environment Programme
TCDC	Technical co-operation among developing countries
TEPCOW	Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole
TNCs	Transnational Corporations
UAR	Union of African Railways
UDEAC	Central African Customs and Economic Union
UNAFRI	United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders
UNCHS	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
UNCSDHA	United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs
UNCSTD	United Nations Centre for Science and Technology for Development
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNCTC	United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRO	United Nations Disaster Relief Organization
UNEDIFACT	United Nations Rules for Electronic Data Interchange for Aministration, Commerce and Transport
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UN-PAAERD	United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development
UNSO	United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office
UNTACDA	United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa
UNTFAD	United Nations Trust Fund for African Development
UNTNA	Union of National Radio and Television Organizations in Africa
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
WADIS	West African Development Information System
WFC	World Food Council
WFP	World Food Programme
WFTU	World Federation of Trade Unions
WHO	World Health Organization
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WTO	World Tourism Organization.

INTRODUCTION

1. The present annual report of the Economic Commission for Africa covers the period 20 May 1990 to 13 May 1991. It has been prepared in accordance with paragraph 18 of the Commission's terms of reference and was adopted by the Conference of Ministers of the Commission on 13 May 1991.

CHAPTER I

MATTERS CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

A. Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council

2. At its twenty-sixth session of the Commission/seventeenth meeting held in Addis Ababa, People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, from 9 to 13 May 1991, the ECA Conference of Ministers responsible for economic development and planning unanimously adopted the following resolutions for action by the Council:

A

706 (XXVI). Proposed United Nations Population Fund technical support teams

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 671 A(XXV) of 29 April 1958 which established the Economic Commission for Africa and assigned to it, inter alia, the task of facilitating concerted action for the economic development of Africa, and maintaining and strengthening economic cooperation in the region (including its social aspects) with other regions,

Recalling also the provisions of the General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 which defined the regional commissions as centres for general economic and social development in their respective regions, and mandated them to exercising team leadership and responsibility for coordination at the regional level,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 33/202 of 29 January 1979 which granted the regional commissions executing agency status in their own right,

Noting that the existing mandates and structures at subregional and regional levels for providing linkages across disciplines implement the intent of resolutions 32/197 and 33/202, so that any modification having an impact on the functions and structures of the regional commissions would conflict with this intention,

Recalling also its resolution 311 (XIII) of 1 March 1977 establishing the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres with the tasks of intensifying and diversifying international economic cooperation among the countries in the region, and, providing potential opportunities for sustainable economic development process in each country,

Taking note with satisfaction the efforts made by the Commission to establish the Centres whose structures have created institutions for decentralization at subregional level,

Mindful of General Assembly resolution 44/211 of 21 December 1989 on the comprehensive triennial review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system whose provisions have yet to be aligned with resolution 32/197 with regard to the role of regional commissions, Noting the appreciation of member States for the services rendered by the Commission's regional advisers on population policy and in the areas of data collection, training, research and information dissemination,

Concerned that the proposed arrangements might result in proliferation of structures in the United Nations system,

Aware that the suggested arrangements could have negative impact on integrated approaches to regional development,

Aware also that the United Nations, including its regional commissions, is still engaged in discussions with the United Nations Population Fund on the proposal for successor arrangements for agency support costs,

1. Appeals to the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme to consider the pre-eminence of the regional commissions in matters relating to regional cooperation, and resolve with the Fund problems arising from the proposed arrangements; and thus

2. Recommends that in the interest of proper coordination and effective harmonization of the various population factors at the regional level and achieving cost effectiveness, the proposed United Nations Population Fund technical support teams correspond to the existing ECA/MULPOC subregional structures and appropriate role be defined for the Commission in the facilitation and coordination of the team which is in accordance with its mandate under the General Assembly resolution 32/197;

3. Calls upon the member States of the Commission who are members of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme to raise with the Council the importance of the above-mentioned recommendations and to urge it to take up this matter with the United Nations Population Fund at the earliest opportunity.

B

708 (XXVI). Acceleration of the economic integration process and strengthening of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres

The Conference of Ministers,

Concerned with the slow process of economic integration at the subregional level as evidenced, inter alia, by the low level of the intra-subregional trade, the persistence of customs barriers between the member States,the non-existence of common external tariff and the absence of harmonized sectoral policies in the fields of agriculture, industry, transport, energy, trade and monetary affairs,

Recalling its resolution 611 (XXII) of 24 April 1987 on the acceleration of subregional economic integration in Africa and the new role of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres in this process,

Recalling also its resolution 702 (XXV) of 19 May 1990 on transforming and strengthening the Centres to enable them play an effective role in providing technical assistance to the economic integration process in Africa,

Noting with satisfaction the United Nations General Assembly's endorsement of the report of the Review Team that the structures, organization and operations of the Centres be transformed and strengthened,

Conscious that the United Nations Development Programme's earlier financial assistance to the Centres from 1977 to 1982 has made a significant impact on the economic integration process in Africa, further accelerated by the funding of multisectoral projects by the Programme during its Fourth Programming Cycle,

Noting further with satisfaction the progress achieved in the preparation of the treaty establishing the African Economic Community whose imminent signature will mark a historic milestone in the integration of Africa,

1. *Appeals* to member States of subregional economic communities to take appropriate measures for the acceleration of the subregional integration process, notably by endowing the subregional economic communities with self-financing mechanisms for the funding of their operational activities, and by ensuring the participation of all socio-economic groups in the economic integration activities;

2. *Further appeals* to member States to adopt effective measures towards the setting up of mechanisms for economic integration in each subregion to be in charge of harmonizing the activities of all economic groupings;

3. *Invites* member States to apply Community decisions on joint policies in priority sectors and, in particular, those regarding tariff and non-tariff barriers elimination, the adoption of a common external tariff and monetary integration;

4. *Requests* the United Nations Development Programme to provide during its Fifth Programming Cycle sufficient resources to support the economic integration process in Africa, in particular to fund activities in priority areas which were not properly covered during the Fourth Programming Cycle, and to sustain the promotion of those activities which were launched during the latter Cycle;

5. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary of the Commission, in close collaboration with the Organization of African Unity and the African Development Bank, to redouble his efforts to explore ways and means to provide all necessary technical assistance to the future African Economic Community, in particular, the drafting of its protocols and the implementation of the first work programme of the Community;

6. *Invites* the African non-governmental organizations to adopt concrete proposals aimed at accelerating the process of economic integration and developing the awareness of all strata of African society for the imperative of African economic and political integration;

7. *Renews* its appeal to the General Assembly for the funding of additional posts in the Centres, both in professional and general service categories and the provision of additional financial resources;

8. *Further renews* its appeal to member States to continue their support to the Centres through specific contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development and by facilitating the secondment of their civil servants to the Centres on short-term assignment;

9. *Endorses* the new orientation of the work programme and priorities of the Centres as proposed by their respective Intergovernmental Committees of Experts;

10. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Commission to take appropriate measures in collaboration with member States for the operationalization of the subregional development information systems, with priority being accorded to a reliable information system on the market for agricultural products, especially foodstuffs;

11. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Establish the mandate and terms of reference of the Intergovernmental Committees of Experts for the effective implementation of the work charged to it under Commission resolution 702 (XXV);

(b) Draw up, in good time, the Centres' programme of work for circulation to member States to allow to prepare, in reasonable time, for the secondment of national civil servants;

Gisenyi Multinational Programming and Operational Centre

12. Requests the Gisenyi Centre and the Commission to assist the Great Lakes countries in implementing the provisions of the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes;

13. Requests also the Gisenyi Centre, in collaboration with the secretariat of the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries, to explore the possibility of organizing through funding from the Commission's extrabudgetary resources as soon as possible an expert group meeting on road transport to consider, inter alia, the following topics: road service taxation and road maintenance within the Community; Community integrated road network and Community road map; global approach to the opening up of the Community area and formulation of a Community transport master plan;

Tangier Multinational Programming and Operational Centre

14. Requests the Commission to continue its assistance to the North African countries within the process of supporting the Arab Maghreb Union in its integration endeavours as well as to continue its assistance to the establishment of the Preferential Trade Area in North Africa;

15. Further requests the Commission to establish within the Tangier Centre, adequate structures in order to enable the latter to provide support to the North African Transport Committee and to ensure proper follow-up to emigration issues;

16. Further requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to seek appropriate funds for providing the programme on the integration of women in development in North Africa with an established post;

Niamey Multinational Programming and Operational Centre

17. Invites the member States of the Economic Community of West African States to consider seriously the establishment of a subsidy system for agricultural inputs, particularly fertilizers, pesticides, equipment and machinery, and to rationalize their distribution so as to accelerate the modernization of the agricultural sector and ensure the increase of its productivity;

18. Requests the Niamey Centre to look into the possibility of organizing with the assistance from the Commission's extrabudgetary resources as soon as possible an expert group meeting to consider measures to be applied by the countries of the subregion in view of likely adverse effects of the European single market on their economies;

Yaounde Multinational Programming and Operational Centre

19. Invites the member States of the subregion to:

(a) Continue to accord integrated rural development top priority;

(b) Coordinate their efforts with a view to establishing a subregional food security plan;

(c) Cooperate in the production of agricultural inputs;

(d) Promote trade in agricultural products, especially foodstuffs; and

(e) Collaborate towards the gradual adoption and implementation of a common agricultural policy;

20. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to provide the member States of the subregion with the necessary assistance in elaborating a subregional industrial development master plan and of a subregional industrialization programme;

21. Invites member States and concerned international organizations, including the Commission and the United Nations Development Programme to provide support to the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa national co-ordinating committees, to the Economic Community of Central African States and the Central African Customs and Economic Union to enable them to elaborate a coherent subregional programme and to implement it;

Lusaka Multinational Programming and Operational Centre

22. Calls upon States members of the subregion to designate focal point to facilitate data collection and for the preparation of country briefs;

23. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to:

(a) Continue to assist to the extent possible the Southern Africa Labour Commission in the provision of secretariat services, implementation of the Labour Commission's expanded programme for 1991-1995, in the servicing of a study tour to West Africa of women from SALC countries and in serving as the ad interim secretariat of the Labour Commission;

(b) Bring the problem of unemployment in Southern Africa to the attention of the Ad hoc Committee of the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity charged with responsibility for monitoring events in the subregion;

(c) Assist member States in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity, the International Labour Organisation and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the development and strengthening of human resources and social development including institutional development and human resources policy coordination.

C

709 (XXVI). United Nations second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (1991-2000)

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling resolution 2 (IX) adopted at the ninth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry held from 29 May to 1 June 1989, concerning the proclamation of the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa and the preparation of a programme for the Decade,

Recalling resolution AHG/Res. 180 (XXV) of July 1989, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, requesting the proclamation of a second Industrial Development Decade for Africa and an African industrial day,

Recalling also resolution GC.3/10 of 23 November 1989, adopted at the third session of the General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization which also called for the proclamation by the forty-fourth regular session of the United Nations General Assembly of a second Industrial Development Decade for Africa, Further recalling General Assembly resolution 44/237 of 22 December 1989 proclaiming 1991-2000 as the period of the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa and 20 November as African Industrial Day,

Taking note of the progress report on the preparation of the programme for the second United Nations Industrial Development Decade which described progress made in national, subregional and regional preparations as well as in meeting the schedule adopted by the ninth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry and subsequently approved by the forty-fourth regular session of the General Assembly,

1. Mandates the Conference of African Ministers of Industry whose tenth meeting will take place in June 1991 in Dakar, Senegal to submit to the General Assembly, at its forty-sixth regular session, through the Economic and Social Council, the programme for the second Decade currently being finalized, together with the recommendations concerning practical modalities of its implementation and monitoring and including modalities for the mobilization of funds needed to finance the programme at the national, subregional, regional and international levels;

2. Appeals to African countries and to African intergovernmental organizations, particularly financial institutions, to take the necessary measures to ensure the successful implementation of the programme for the second Decade and to give priority to the mobilization of their own financial resources for the implementation and monitoring of the second Decade programme;

3. Also appeals to the international community, particularly bilateral and multilateral funding institutions to significantly increase their contributions to the industrial sector in African countries so as to ensure optimum implementation of the programme for the second Decade;

4. Recommends that the General Assembly of the United Nations should provide the Economic Commission for Africa with adequate resources to enable it to provide effective assistance to African countries and organizations in the implementation of the second Decade programme;

5. Also recommends that the policy organs of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization should significantly increase the Organization's regular budget resources allocated for the implementation of the second Decade programme;

6. Further appeals to the United Nations Development Programme to allocate, under its Africa regional programme for the Fifth Programming cycle (1992-1996) adequate resources for supporting activities of the second Decade programme;

7. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to undertake, in cooperation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, follow-up actions for promoting national, subregional and regional activities in support of the second Decade programme and submit a report on the implementation of this resolution to the next meeting of the Conference of Ministers.

D

710 (XXVI). Second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.88/73, adopted at Kinshasa, Zaire, in March 1988, by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning, in which the appropriate United Nations bodies were requested to take appropriate measures to proclaim a second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, Recalling also its resolution 639 (XXIII) of 15 April 1988, Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/67 of 28 July 1988 and General Assembly resolution 43/179 of 20 December 1988 all proclaiming the period 1991-2000 as the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa,

Referring to resolutions ECA/UNTACDA/Res.89/75 and ECA/UNTACDA/Res.89/82 of 12 November 1989 adopted at Tangier, Morocco, by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning, which endorsed the goals, global and sectoral objectives, strategies and guidelines for the preparation of the programme of the second Decade and the establishment of priorities of the programme,

Further referring to resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.91/84 of 8 February 1991 adopted at Abuja, Nigeria, by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning, in relation to the second Decade,

Recognizing the fundamental role that road transport plays in regional integration within the objectives of the second Decade programme and the urgent need for harmonized and coordinated development of the subsector through the proposed reactivation of the Trans-African Highways Bureau,

Bearing in mind its resolutions 604 (XXII) of 24 April 1987 and 639 (XXIII) of 15 April 1988 and Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning ECA/UNTACDA/Res.89/79 of November 1989 which all requested the Executive Secretary of the Commission to urgently reactivate the Trans-African Highways Bureau and to allocate adequate resources for its efficient functioning,

Having considered the report of the eighth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning held in Abuja, Nigeria, on 8 February 1991 and the report on the preparation of the programme of the second Decade,

Taking note of the adoption of the second Decade programme and the decision on the reactivation of the Bureau made by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 8 May 1991,

Appreciating the work done by the national coordinating committees, the Resource Mobilization Committee, the Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee, subsectoral and subregional working groups in preparing the strategy and programme of the second Decade,

Noting with appreciation the contributions of the Commission, the Organization of African Unity, the African Development Bank, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, the regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations and the United Nations specialized agencies to the preparation of the second Decade programme,

Recognizing the important role incumbent on the national coordinating committees and the various African subregional and regional organizations during the implementation phase of the second Decade programme,

1. Adopts the programme of the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, 1991-2000;

2. Recommends the Decade programme to the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations General Assembly for approval;

3. Requests the United Nations Economic and Social Council to appeal to the General Assembly to:

(a) Formally launch the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa which was proclaimed in its resolution 43/179; and

(b) Provide the Economic Commission for Africa with the necessary regular budget resources to enable it to effectively and efficiently carry out the responsibilities mandated to it as the lead agency of the Decade programme;

4. Appeals to all African Governments, as beneficiaries of the programme, to give every support for the achievement of the objectives of the second Decade programme at national, subregional and regional levels by:

(a) Ensuring the establishment and proper functioning of national coordinating committees;

(b) Participating in financing and implementing the national projects that are included in the programme; and

(c) Contributing and cooperating effectively in the financing and implementation of subregional and regional Decade projects;

5. Requests the Commission, as lead agency, to ensure that adequate manpower and financial resources, regular and extrabudgetary, are allocated for harmonizing, coordinating and monitoring the organization and implementation of the Decade activities and other relevant projects which have been mandated to the Commission as lead agency;

6. Requests the United Nations Development Programme to continue to support the implementation of the programme at national, subregional and regional levels and in particular the activities of the lead agency in monitoring, evaluating, managing and reporting on the implementation of the Decade programme;

7. Appeals to the United Nations agencies and other international organizations to provide all the necessary technical and other assistance to African Governments and work very closely with the Commission, the Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee and African regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations in order to effectively implement the Second Decade programme and projects;

8. Appeals to individual international, African, regional and subregional financial institutions to ensure and facilitate the financing of national, subregional and regional Decade projects by giving adequate priority and special attention to the second Decade programme and projects in their respective lending activities in Africa, and to commit themselves actively and collectively, to mobilize adequate resources for the effective implementation of projects of the Decade programme;

9. Requests the Commission to prepare draft statutes for the single bureau of the Trans-African Highway Authorities for adoption by member States;

10. Appeals to member States, associate members and non-members of the Authorities and their coordinating committees to honour their financial obligations to the bureau;

11. Further appeals to member States to review the statutes and regulations governing the Trans-African Highway Authorities in order to adapt them to the new operating structure of the trans-African highways;

12. Further appeals to donors and, in particular to the United Nations Development Programme, to assist in the financing of the extended programme of the single Bureau designed to assist member States in the implementation of the second Decade programme;

13. Requests the Resource Mobilization Committee of the second Decade to assist the Bureau in its efforts in the mobilization of resources for its operation;

14. Expresses its appreciation to the United Nations Development Programme for the efforts it made to provide assistance in order to enable African countries to properly prepare the second Decade programme;

15. Appeals to the Programme to provide the African countries with the technical assistance needed to coordinate the preparation and implementation of the programme at the national, subsectoral and subregional levels;

16. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to report to the Conference at its next meeting on the progress made in the implementation of this resolution.

E

717 (XXVI). Programme of work and priorities of the Economic Commission for Africa for 1992-1993

The Conference of Ministers,

Having examined Africa's past and present socio-economic development problems and the challenges facing Africa in the 1990s and beyond,

Bearing in mind that Africa accounts for a great number of the least developed countries of the world and that the present economic and social crisis had further weakened the region's capacity to cope up with its own economic growth and development,

Realizing that there is need for strengthening regional and subregional cooperation through joint and co-ordinated efforts to solving the grave economic situation facing Africa,

Having examined the proposed programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1992-1993,[1]

Bearing in mind that this is the first programme of work based on the 1992-1997 Medium-term Plan,[2]

Taking note of the fact that in his submission of the proposed programme budget, the Secretary-General of the United Nations would include proposals for a programme on Africa's critical economic situation, recovery and development as contained in the Medium-term Plan, 1992-1997,

Convinced that the proposed programme of work can make significant contribution to Africa's development effort,

Noting with satisfaction the positive response of the General Assembly to the recommendations of the Review Team on the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres, which concluded, inter alia, that the structures, organization and operation of each Centre should be transformed and strengthened to make it more operational and effective in providing relevant services to member States of its subregion,

1. Endorses the work programme and priorities of the Commission for the biennium 1992-1993 as contained in document E/ECA/CM.17/25/Rev.1;

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[1] E/ECA/CM.17/25/Rev.1.

[2] A/45/6/Rev.1.

2. Urges the Secretary-General of the United Nations in his submission to the Committee for Programming and Co-ordination to give special consideration to the Economic Commission for Africa in providing it with adequate resources to enable it to implement fully its work programme particularly by making available more regular budget posts, increased allocation for travel and consultancy services for the Commission's five subregional Multinational Programming and Operational Centres, the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning and the Pan-African Documentation and Information System;

3. Urges also the Secretary-General in his submission to the General Assembly to stress the need to make available adequate posts and financial resources at the Commission to enable it to undertake those responsibilities assigned to it under the programme on Africa's critical economic situation, recovery and development;

4. Calls upon the Committee for Programming and Co-ordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to support and consider favourably these proposals for making available adequate resources to the Commission under programmes 30 and 45 at its forthcoming session.

F

718 (XXVI). Revitalization of the mandate and operational framework of the regional commission for Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system and in particular section IV of the same resolution on structures for regional and interregional cooperation,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 33/202 of 29 January 1979 legislating, inter alia, that the regional commissions should have the status of executing agencies in their own right, for regional, subregional and interregional projects that were of an intersectoral character or were in areas that did not fall within the purview of specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 44/211 of 21 December 1989 on operational activities for development,

Recognizing that the afore-mentioned resolutions and related instruments have paved the way for and continue to sustain the process of decentralization of the United Nations system with a view to rendering its activities more relevant to the particular requirements of the developing countries as well as more efficient and cost-effective.

Conscious of the high responsibilities carried out in this context by the regional commissions, who are called upon to catalyze, coordinate and develop policies and operational frameworks aimed at meeting the specific developmental requirements of their regions,

Acknowledging the indisputable central role played by the regional commission for Africa since its establishment in 1958 in furthering individual and collective policy objectives and translating them into integrated self-reliant strategies, such as the Lagos Plan of Action and Final Act of Lagos, Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes and the Khartoum and Abuja Declarations, which have contributed to Africa's development goals of the 1990s and furthered concepts of cooperation among the African countries themselves, the African countries and the international community at large and the United Nations system in particular,

Convinced that Africa's future development lies in the arduous pursuit of regional and subregional socio-economic integration and ultimate establishment of the African Economic Community, and as a consequence, enhanced integrated multidisciplinary approaches to development aimed at long-term structural transformation of its economies,

Concerned that the original mandate of the regional commissions has been placed in question and that the decentralization process launched in the 1970s and that the inherent focus on the regional dimensions of development has been greatly reversed,

Concerned in particular at the far-reaching consequences emerging from discussions on resolution 44/211, which though it has stressed the need for multidisciplinary integrated approaches to development, has left open the contributions and great potential of the regional commissions in this area,

Noting with appreciation the joint position taken by the regional commissions on the follow-up of resolution 44/211 essentially aimed at restoring the regional dimensions within the United Nations System coordinating bodies such as the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Operational Activities) and the Advisory Committee on Coordination, Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly,

Looking forward with interest to the study on the regional dimensions to be carried out under the aegis of the Director General for Development and International Co-operation in consultation with the regional commissions and the United Nations agencies, for inclusion in his 1991 annual report to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on the follow-up of implementation of resolution 44/211,

1. Commends the Executive Secretary for the initiatives he has taken to establish within existing resources a Multidisciplinary Advisory Group to:

(a) Assist African countries to translate regionally agreed policies into practical strategies and programmes;

(b) Provide multisectoral analyses of African needs in the priority areas, and time-bound strategies for achieving the objectives contained in those priorities;

(c) Developing in the member States and subregional economic communities annual programmes of multidisciplinary technical assistance; and

(d) Providing multidisciplinary technical assistance teams to African countries based on those programmes;

2. Calls upon the Secretary-General of the United Nations to launch a comprehensive process of reviewing and up-dating of the legislative framework of the regional commissions with a view to:

(a) Defining unambiguously and explicitly their present role and functions, and enforcing their original mandates in such a way as to correspond to regional development objectives and requirements;

(b) Providing them with a new legislative framework which complements United Nations General Assembly resolutions on operational activities for development, and defines their operational and organizational objectives and requirements at the regional levels; and

(c) Reviewing in relation to (a) and (b) above the funding mechanisms of the regional commissions and exploring ways and means to improve existing institutional arrangements, including the establishment of a separate global pledging arrangement for funding of regional co-operation activities;

3. Invites the Director General for Development and International Cooperation to consider the convening of an ad hoc group meeting of high-level experts drawn from the respective regions during the second half of 1991 to discuss the revision of the mandate of the regional commissions and thus provide an

intellectual input into the current process of restructuring and decentralizing United Nations assistance to the countries of the region;

4. Urges the agencies of the United Nations system and of the United Nations secretariat involved in technical assistance to decentralize staff and establish joint units, sections and divisions with the secretariats of the regional commissions;

5. Appeals to member States to give due consideration to the regional dimension in their national development plans and ensure that its multidisciplinary implications be comprehensively addressed in those country programming exercises to be funded from national indicative planning figures (IPF).

G

722 (XXVI). Vote of appreciation and thanks to Professor Adebayo Adedeji, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Noting with deep regret the decision of Professor Adebayo Adedeji to resign his appointment as United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa,

Conscious of the exemplary leadership demonstrated by him for over 16 years at the helm of affairs of the Commission, having given a unique sense of direction to the Commission and succeeded in projecting Africa's own perceptions of its problems and needs to the world community through his outstanding capacity for lucidity and courage in actions and deeds,

Recognizing that he imparted to the work of the Commission an intellectual orientation of the highest level, enabling him to initiate coherent policies and strategies, thus giving the Economic Commission for Africa enhanced credibility, leading not only to unreserved support from its members States but also to the respect of the entire United Nations family,

Cognizant of his numerous contributions to the cause of African development during his tenure as Executive Secretary of the Commission, including, inter alia, (a) the elaboration of major development strategies and programmes such as the Lagos Plan of Action, Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, Africa's Submission to the General Assembly on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa and the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes; (b) the promotion of regional and subregional cooperation and integration of African countries by spearheading the establishment of the Economic Community of West African States, the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States and the Economic Community of Central African States; (c) the launching of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa and the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa; (d) the establishment of ECA-sponsored regional and subregional institutions active in the fields of science, technology and economic and social development; (e) the decentralization of the Commission's activities to the five subregions through its Multinational Programming and Operational Centres; the strengthening of the Commission's operational capacity through cooperation with the United Nations partners; (f) and the promotion of women in development through the establishment of the African Training and Research Centre for Women,

Recognizing his commitment and devotion to Africa's major ideals and his tireless championing and defence of the continent's cause in the world,

1. Expresses to him its highest appreciation for his foresight and dynamic leadership during his tenure as Executive Secretary of the Commission;

2. Expresses further to him its gratitude for his decisive role in the elaboration of what became Africa's own collective perceptions and strategies for socio-economic development; and for laying the foundation for regional and subregional cooperation through the instruments which he helped to develop and the institutions and organizations he established;

3. Wholeheartedly wishes him an even more productive and rewarding future, certain that he will continue to be at the forefront of the battle for African development and progress;

4. Mandates the Chairman of the Conference to transmit this vote of appreciation and thanks to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

H

724 (XXVI). Persian Gulf crisis Compensation Fund

The Conference of Ministers,

Noting with great concern that the Persian Gulf crisis had serious consequences on many countries, including African countries,

Noting also that the impact of the crisis was even more devastating to the already weak African economies,

Noting in particular that these African countries suffered from additional oil import bills to the tune of $US 2.7 billion arising from international increases in oil prices, uncertainties in energy supply, high domestic prices in the energy sector and related sectors such as food and agriculture with special reference to food security, environment, tourism, and transport, etc.,

Noting that the African countries resorted to short-term borrowing thereby worsening their debt crisis,

Aware that a Compensation Fund was being set up by the United Nations to alleviate the adverse consequences of the Persian Gulf war,

Bearing in mind that the above Compensation Fund does not cover African countries,

1. Requests the General Assembly to extend the mandate of the Compensation Fund so as to make the African countries who also suffered from the consequences of the war eligible for relief and compensation from the Fund;

2. Further requests that the General Assembly, as an alternative, considers the establishment of a separate compensation fund for Africa in order to alleviate the plight of African countries whose economies were adversely affected by the Persian Gulf crisis;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to take immediate steps to bring this resolution to the attention of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and inform the Chairman of this seventeenth Conference of Ministers of Economic Development and Planning of the response of the Secretary-General regarding this resolution;

4. Also requests the Chairman of this seventeenth Conference of appraise member States of the response of the Secretary-General.

3. Also at its seventeenth meeting, the ECA Conference of Ministers took note of the expression of interest by Namibia to host the twenty-seventh session of the Commission/eighteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers in Windhoek, Namibia, in 1992, subject to further consultations by Namibian authorities and the approval of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly in accordance with paragraph 4(f) of General Assembly resolution 40/243.

B. Issues brought to the attention of the Council

4. The Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa also adopted the following resolutions:

705 (XXVI). Implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos at national, subregional and regional levels

The Conference recommended that all national governments should base their short-, medium- and long-term development plans, programmes and policies on the content of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos as well as additional areas of focus, namely African cultural dimension, science and technology, management development, human resources development especially education, popular participation particularly greater participation of women in development, strengthening the democratization processes, and mobilization of internal and external financial resources for the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos.

707 (XXVI). Strengthening popular information infrastructures in support of population programmes in Africa

The Conference called upon the United Nations Population Fund and other donor governments and agencies to further assist in strengthening POPIN-Africa to continue its operations to develop regional, subregional and national capacities for information sharing and for improving the flow of population information and data in the region.

711 (XXVI). Revitalization of mining industries in Africa

The Conference requested the ECA secretariat to explore ways and means of financing, between now and the fifth Regional Conference on the Development and Utilization of Mineral Resources in Africa, planned for 1993, with the participation of the African Development Bank and the World Bank, and in collaboration with competent African intergovernmental agencies, a comparative study on mining development policies in Africa in order to recommend improvements in these policies at the national level and their co-ordination at the regional and subregional levels.

712 (XXVI). African participation in the preparation for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

The Conference urged the agencies of the United Nations system to support ECA in its efforts to prepare the region for the 1992 Conference.

713 (XXVI). The African social situation

The Conference invited all African Governments, specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned to make all efforts in preparation for and observance of the International Year of the Family, as proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in resolution 44/82 of 8 December 1989, at the grass-roots, national and regional levels, with a view to creating greater awareness of the African family as the pillar and fundamental unit of society.

714 (XXVI). Women in development

The Conference urged member States to intensify their efforts to implement the recommendations of the Abuja Declaration by channelling human and financial resources to national machineries responsible for women's concerns and monitoring the attainment of the targets of the Declaration.

715 (XXVI). Improvement of the status of women in the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa

The Conference urged the Executive Secretary to explore the possibility of (a) increasing the number of women at decision-making levels and (b) allocating additional staff to the ECA African Research and Training Centre and at MULPOC level to strengthen the programmes for women.

716 (XXVI). Implementing an integrated approach to development information

The Conference requested the United Nations Development Programme to consider the funding of the Pan-African Documentation and Information System activities under the Fifth Regional Programming Cycle for Africa commensurate with the expanded operational activities of PADIS.

719 (XXVI). Contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development

The Conference invited African member States and the international community to contribute more generously to the Fund.

720 (XXVI). The United Nations Development Programme Fifth Inter-Country Programme for Africa

The Conference endorsed the Orientation Paper for the UNDP Fifth Inter-Country Programme for Africa (1992-1996) and, at the same time, expressed concern about the reduction of resources to Africa.

721 (XXVI). The International Fund for Agricultural Development's Special Programme for Sub-Saharan African Countries affected by Drought and Desertification

The Conference emphasized the urgent need for a steady, predictable and uninterrupted flow of resources to Africa for recovery and development, particularly for agriculture, and to meet the urgent needs of drought control and foe economic reform, and for continuous and enhanced co-operation between ECA and the International Fund for Agricultural Development in the interest of African economic recovery and development with transformation.

723 (XXVI). Vote of thanks to Mr. Mbatkam Tchouta-Moussa, Deputy Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa

The Conference expressed its profound gratitude to Mr. Mbatkam Tchouta-Moussa for his invaluable contribution to the work of the Commission during his many years of service and wished him every success in the discharge of his new and high responsibilities.

725 (XXVI). Choice of the name "Adebayo Adedeji Conference Centre" for the new conference centre of the Economic Commission for Africa

The Conference, bearing in mind the impact and impression that his work has left on ECA and its member States through his relentless efforts to establish policies and strategies for Africa, with a view to political and socio-economic integration of the continent, recommended that the new conference centre of ECA should be named "Adebayo Adedeji Conference Centre".

CHAPTER II

WORK OF THE COMMISSION DURING THE PERIOD 20 MAY 1990 TO 13 MAY 1991

A. Activities of subsidiary organs

5. The list of meetings of subsidiary organs held during the period under review is contained in annex III to this report.

B. Other activities

6. Described below are the activities carried out under the Commission's approved work programme and priorities or pursuant to the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Conference of Ministers.

Food and agriculture

7. During the period under review, the secretariat produced guidelines on the reinforcement of policy measures as a basis for the mobilization and efficient utilization of domestic resources in the implementation of agricultural investment programmes and projects. It mounted a mission to selected countries in the Niamey- and Yaoundé-based MULPOC subregions, and undertook an in-depth study on training needs in the field of agricultural planning and policy making. Two separate reports were prepared for submission to the policy organs of the two MULPOCs early in 1991.

8. Another mission was also fielded to selected countries in the Yaoundé-based MULPOC subregion. The purpose of the mission was to identify sound and practical programmes and projects facilitating inter-country cooperation in food and agricultural development. The outcome of the mission was a report to the policy organs of the Yaoundé-based MULPOC.

9. The secretariat was active in the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 (UN-PAAERD). Two missions visited six selected countries in the Gisenyi- and Yaoundé-based MULPOC subregions and evaluated efforts made to implement the programme at national, subregional, regional and international levels. Following this, two evaluation reports were prepared for submission to the policy organs of the two MULPOCs in the first quarter of 1991.

10. A technical publication and a report were prepared in areas related to the Lagos Plan of Action and UN-PAAERD. The specific objective of the technical publication was to improve the role of inter-governmental organizations in the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and UN-PAAERD. The technical publication was prepared for agricultural development planners in member countries while the report was drawn up for submission to the ECA Conference of Ministers in May 1991.

11. A technical publication was also prepared on how to improve basic statistics for socio-economic indicators of agrarian reform and rural development in the Gisenyi- and Lusaka-based MULPOC countries. A report on the development and improvement of data bases for the promotion of food security was also prepared for submission to the policy organs of the Yaoundé-based MULPOC. The emphasis of the report was on the development of early warning systems as a tool for promoting food security.

12. The secretariat also carried out an evaluation of existing practices of conservation, management and exploitation of natural forests in the Lusaka-based MULPOC countries. A report on that was prepared for submission to the policy organs of the Lusaka-based MULPOC early in 1991. A similar report was also finalized for the Yaoundé-based MULPOC countries. Both reports laid particular stress on investment projects and fuelwood requirements.

13. A report was prepared on agricultural research covering the Lusaka-based MULPOC countries. The precise purpose of the report was to gauge the progress made in those countries in the practical application of maize research findings at subregional level. The report was completed for submission to the policy organs of the Lusaka-based MULPOC. A technical publication covering the same subregion was also prepared. Its purpose was to promote subregional cooperation in the production and distribution of agricultural machinery and farm equipment.

14. In the field of livestock development, a report was prepared for submission to the ECA Conference of Ministers in 1991. Its objective was to enhance measures for harmonization and integration of livestock development policies and programmes in Africa.

15. Of several reports were prepared for submission to the policy organs of the various MULPOCs, two pertained to the improvement of food marketing institutions and were submitted to the policy organs of the Gisenyi- and Lusaka-based MULPOCs in the first quarter of 1991. A third report was prepared for submission to the Gisenyi-based MULPOC policy organs. Its objective was the improvement of cooperatives and other farmers' organizations and associations in the three Great Lakes countries (Burundi, Rwanda and Zaire). Three reports were completed on the Gisenyi-, Niamey- and Yaoundé-based MULPOC countries and submitted to their policy organs early in 1991. The main theme of those reports was the removal of infrastructural constraints to intra-regional marketing of and trade in food commodities.

16. Another report finalized for submission to the Lusaka-based MULPOC policy organs related to the reduction of food losses. The report documented the experiences acquired in the prevention of food-crop losses through insect pest management, based on the results of a pilot project in South Nyanya, Kenya and also on the experiences of FAO and the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE).

17. The secretariat produced a technical publication aimed at increasing the role of the informal sector in the marketing of food commodities, and the impact of structural adjustment programmes on food marketing. Two reports were also completed for submission to the policy organs of the Niamey- and Yaoundé-based MULPOCs. The major issues addressed included price liberalization and marketing policies, and their repercussions on food marketing and food security. The secretariat undertook a related workshop on the establishment and strengthening of agricultural marketing and extension programmes. The workshop, for which a report was duly prepared, covered the six North African countries.

18. Three other reports were also finalized in fields related to food security. The first of these was intended for submission to the Niamey-based MULPOC policy organs in the first quarter of 1991. Its principal focus was on the assessment of food security programmes. The other two reports were completed for submission to the Lusaka- and Niamey-based MULPOC policy organs early in 1991. Both reports dealt with emergency preparedness disaster relief, making special reference to the marketing and distribution of agricultural inputs. A related output was a seminar on the contribution of food marketing institutions to food security which was organized for the Eastern and Southern African subregion.

19. Three reports were prepared for submission to the Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs. The first of them described the organization of credit schemes at the grass-roots level for rural development in Africa. The second covered policies and strategies for participatory rural development in the region. The third set out guidelines for designing participatory rural development in the African region. Two other reports were prepared for submission to the policy organs of the Lusaka-based MULPOC early in 1991. The first report encompassed agrarian transformation in selected countries with a focus on policy and the methodological and operational issues pertaining to agrarian structure. The second covered effects of migrant mining labour on rural development. Special emphasis was laid in this respect on agrarian productivity in Southern Africa.

20. In addition, three technical publications were completed for distribution to member countries. The first of these was a biannual journal known as "Rural Progress". The second was a manual on typologies

and activities of rural organizations in agriculture and rural development in selected African countries. The third discussed case studies on measures taken to accelerate rural development in selected African countries.

21. A training seminar on living resources of the sea was organized for the Lusaka-based MULPOC countries in the second half of 1990. The secretariat also carried out a study on multinational cooperation in the development of inland fisheries and aquaculture. The outcome of that study was a report submitted to the policy organs of the Yaoundé-based MULPOC in the first quarter of 1991.

22. Following the technical workshop organized earlier for North African countries on the promotion and strengthening of cooperation in the agriculture sector, the secretariat produced a report for submission to the policy organs of the Tangier-based MULPOC in the first quarter of 1991. The purpose of the report was to follow up on the implementation of the fishery aspects of the recommendations made by the workshop.

23. Advisory services were also provided to a number of member countries. These included:

(a) Formulation of regional research programmes to solve common agricultural problems, utilizing national and international agricultural research centres in the region to generate agricultural technologies for small-scale farmers (beneficiaries: Lusaka- and Niamey-based MULPOC countries);

(b) Establishment of subregional and regional food security networks (beneficiaries: Tangier- and Yaoundé-based MULPOC countries);

(c) Exploitation and management of marine and inland fishery resources at the subregional level (beneficiaries: Gisenyi- and Niamey-based MULPOC countries, and intergovernmental organizations);

(d) Promotion of subregional cooperation in livestock production and development (beneficiaries: selected member countries);

(e) Creation of national and regional socio-economic indicators for monitoring and evaluating the impact of integrated rural development projects (beneficiaries: selected member countries);

(f) Establishment of a data base for the marine sector (22 African countries on the Atlantic coast - from Morocco to Namibia);

(g) Establishment of subregional cooperation in the field of aquaculture development among the island countries members of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC);

(h) Organization of an intergovernmental regional workshop on evaluation of rural development experiences, funded with contributions from African member States and with supplementary financial assistance from FAO, Rome (Addis Ababa, 19-24 November 1990).

24. The impact of the activities performed by the secretariat during the period can be seen in improved planning and policy-making strategies. Measures were taken to improve the quality of agricultural statistics, to establish a positive correlation between planning and budgeting, and to strengthen efforts aimed at enhancing the formulation, execution, monitoring and evaluation of agricultural programmes and projects. In addition, increased efforts have been made to produce trained national counterparts to replace expatriates engaged in the formulation and execution of agricultural development plans and policies.

25. As a result of attempts made by the secretariat to augment food and agricultural production, most countries have made food self-sufficiency and food security a major development target in line with the objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action and UN-PAAERD. The production of export crops has also been a principal agricultural concern. None the less, these development goals have not always been translated into action due to a mismatch between resources planned for the sector and those actually expended on it;

the inadequacy of supporting services; the lack of trained manpower particularly in technical fields; inefficiencies in national civil service administrations; the occurrence of such natural disasters as drought; lack of preparedness for such disasters; political conflicts; and the fact that assistance from the donor community was not coordinated.

26. The various measures taken to improve agricultural marketing practices have also had some impact. This was reflected in current national efforts to restructure or abolish inefficient state-run institutions dealing with the marketing of agricultural commodities. The relatively increased role given to the private sector in the marketing of agricultural commodities is another positive impact. None the less, even this trend has not been without difficulties. The vacuum left by the abolition of state-run marketing agencies has not been filled by well-prepared private sector agencies as these are rare in Africa. Restructured state agencies are still plagued with chronic resource problems, inefficiency, corruption and resistance to novelty in their management. Additionally, the involvement of the private sector in marketing has escalated prices of such basic agricultural inputs as fertilizers, seeds and pesticides.

27. There has been a growing interest on the part of member countries and donors in integrated rural development. Increased attention is being given to the bottom-up as against the top-to-bottom approach of development planning. Integrated rural development at the level of the small farmer is now widely advocated. There have been problems in this respect. This has often limited coordination of integrated rural development projects and conflict among implementing agencies or government departments. There has not been much effective organization of beneficiaries at the local level to enable them to effectively participate in development activities. Still another obstacle is illiteracy and the apparent ignorance of the rural masses when it comes to the need for participatory development. Last, but not least, is the absence of genuine "political will" on the part of certain countries to empower rural people to participate in development efforts.

28. With regard to the exploitation of fishery resources, enhanced efforts are being made to expand fish production in such countries as Zaire and Morocco. In other countries, such as Cameroon and Burundi, the level of production has stagnated or declined. Further, subregional projects such as those in Lake Kivu and the Gulf of Guinea do not seem to have performed well because of inadequate inter-country cooperation. Apart from that, the major factors which have militated against the national efforts to expand production include the lack of resources such as boats, fishing rods and nets; poor marketing practices; substantial losses at fish harvest time and during transportation; fluctuating and sometimes declining demand for fish; the exploitation of fishery resources by foreign vessels; and illegal fishing by foreign concerns in national territorial waters.

Marine affairs in Africa

29. In the field of marine affairs, the secretariat provided advisory services to one member State (Ethiopia) on strategies for development of marine science and technology in the country.

30. Early in 1991, the secretariat mounted advisory services missions to Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania, Madagascar, Mauritius and Mozambique on manpower development and training for the exploration and exploitation of marine resources in those countries.

31. The secretariat participated in and presented technical papers on (a) priority areas and (b) specific measures for cooperation respectively at the first and second meetings of experts on the Law of the Sea from member States of the South Atlantic Zone of Peace and Cooperation, held respectively in Brazzaville, the Congo, from 11 to 15 May 1990 and in Montevideo, Uruguay, from 3 to 6 April 1991.

Socio-economic research and planning

32. In the area of surveys, research and economic analysis, the secretariat prepared two surveys on economic and social conditions in Africa for 1988-1989 and 1989-1990. That work involved mounting field missions to 25 African countries in the period September-November 1990 to collect information and data,

and to discuss with government officials the main problems facing their countries. Work was also completed on the Economic Report on Africa 1991, which was presented to the ECA Conference of Ministers.

33. A paper on the impact of the Persian Gulf crisis on the African countries in the context of the socio-economic consequences of recent international developments and their perspectives for the economies of Africa was also prepared. The paper focused on such factors as oil prices and imports, resource flows and the labour market, output and price trends, and the impact of the crisis on them.

34. In the field of economic modelling and forecasting, the secretariat developed a preliminary specification of a standard short-term forecasting model with a view to guiding countries in building their own national forecasting systems. The preliminary standard model was developed on the basis of the experience that had been gathered from the application of the model in four African countries.

35. A study on the characteristics and the structure of the informal sector in Africa was also prepared. The study highlighted the role of the informal sector in African economies in terms of its contribution to GDP, creation of employment and incomes, training, mobilization of savings and credit. A number of proposals were made in the study. They included measures for increasing demand for informal sector products, developing links between informal and modern sectors, providing appropriate technology assistance, and creating an institutional framework for the promotion of autonomous organizations of producers.

36. A further study examined planning practices in Africa, and proposed changes in development planning in line with the strategies and objectives of the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-economic Recovery and Transformation (AAF-SAP). The study also emphasized the importance of decentralization and the democratization of planning processes in the region.

37. Other activities included the convening of a high-level expert group meeting on an assessment of socio-economic development in the 1980s. The meeting focused on the extent to which the Lagos Plan of Action and Final Act of Lagos had been implemented and how the Lagos Plan of Action might be revitalized.

38. A seminar on AAF-SAP and popular participation in development in Africa and stability, security, development and cooperation in Africa (Addis Ababa, 21-23 March 1991) was jointly organized with the Organization of African Trade Union Unity. The objective of the meeting was to promote the practical contribution of organized labour to Africa's recovery and development in terms of popularization of AAF-SAP and the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation.

39. In the field of operational activities, the secretariat assisted countries in development plan preparation and evaluation; modelling and forecasting; group training in finance; poverty and debt issues; environmental degradation; and public participation.

40. African least developed, island and land-locked countries were reviewed in the survey of economic and social conditions in African least developed countries. Country missions to a number of African LDCs were mounted from May 1990 to May 1991.

41. A document on the Programme of Action for LDCs in the 1990s: Its implications for economic growth and development in African LDCs further summarizes the salient features of the outcome of the second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, which was convened in Paris from 3 to 14 September 1990.

42. The secretariat was represented in the Steering Committee for the Regional Symposium on Savings and Credit for Development, held in Bad Sodden, Germany (3-5 December 1990) and in the Mid-term Review of the UNDP Country Programme for Sierra Leone (Freetown, 24-27 July 1990).

43. In the area of policies and institutions, the secretariat pursued its assistance to subregional economic groupings through the implementation of UNDP-funded multisectoral projects, of which ECCAS, ECOWAS and UDEAC are the beneficiaries. In its capacity as main executing agency, the secretariat signed inter-agency letters of agreement with all associated agencies, viz., FAO, ITC, ITU, UNCTAD, UNEP and UNIDO.

44. The fifth Joint ECA/UNDP/African IGOs/United Nations Specialized Agencies meeting was also organized on 25 and 26 April 1991 to consider, inter alia, the preparations for the Fifth Programming Cycle of UNDP as it relates to the Regional Programme for Africa. A report was submitted to the meeting on the negotiation process for the establishment of the African Economic Community.

Human resources planning, development and utilization

45. With regard to education and training for development and manpower and employment planning and policies, the following technical publications and studies were produced:

(a) Trends and issues in African education [ECA/PHSD/HRP/90/5/5.1(i)(a)], an overview of culture and environment in the school curricula;

(b) The economic crisis, structural adjustment and higher education in Africa [ECA/PHSD/HRP/90/13/5.1(ii)(a)], an examination of trends in education in Africa between 1970 and 1989;

(c) Non-formal education programmes for development [ECA/PHSD/HRP/90/6/5.1(ii)(b)], a review of the role played by non-formal education programmes in national development;

(d) Guidelines on the development of machineries for the management of staff [ECA/PHSD/HRP/90/16/5.2(i)(d)), an examination of the concepts of management and human resource development;

(e) The private sector and non-governmental organizations in the financing and implementation of training programmes [ECA/PHSD/HRP/90/17/5.2(ii)], an examination of financing and funding of training, and proposed measures for improving the implementation of training programmes in the private sector and NGOs;

(f) The status of the ECA-administered training and fellowship programme for Africa [ECA/PHSD/HRP/19/5.3(ii)], a review of the administration of grants and fellowships administered by the secretariat over the last three years, the problems encountered and prospects for the future;

(g) Progress, problems and prospects in planning for the development and utilization of human resources in Africa [ECA/PHSD/HRP/90/20/6.1(i)(d)], an analysis of factors which hinder the effectiveness of planning for the development and utilization of human resources in Africa;

(h) Human resources planning for socio-economic recovery and development [ECA/PHSD/HRP/90/21/6.1(ii)], examination of current human resources problems in Africa; and the financing of human resources planning and development;

(i) Policies and programmes for creating employment and raising incomes in the informal sector [ECA/PHSD/HRP/90/12/6.2(i)(a)], a proposal to assign a more prominent position to the informal sector in national development;

(j) Human resources in Africa: Issues and trends [ECA/PHSD/HRP/90/15/6.2(i)(d)], an analysis of measures for enhancing human resources productivity, with particular emphasis on the informal sector; employment generation; and worker productivity enhancement.

46. In collaboration with government institutions in member States, the secretariat organized conferences, seminars and training workshops with the aim of assisting officers engaged in curriculum development and evaluation; non-formal education, literacy and adult education programmes; management training and training of trainers; teacher education and employment planning and productivity enhancement strategies.

47. The secretariat collaborated with the Institute of Curriculum Development in the United Republic of Tanzania in organizing a workshop on teaching and learning methods and techniques for 60 senior government officials, curriculum developers, and educational administrators, school inspectors, educational planners and examination officers (9-14 July 1990). Proposals were made for improving teaching and learning in Tanzania.

48. In collaboration with the African Curriculum Organization (ACO), the German Foundation for International Development and the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture of the Gambia, the secretariat organized a regional curriculum development course for experts in curriculum development from Botswana, Cameroon, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Nigeria, Rwanda, Swaziland, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe (6 August - 15 September 1990).

49. The secretariat collaborated with the African Association for Literacy and Adult Education and the Ministry of Education of Mauritius in organizing a regional conference on non-formal education and literacy programmes and adult education in Africa (Mauritius, 5-10 November 1990). The conference was attended by 200 participants with strong representation from non-governmental organizations. The conference prepared a Declaration on Literacy Programmes and Adult Education in Africa for implementation by non-governmental organizations.

50. The secretariat collaborated with the Planning Commission of Tanzania in organizing a national seminar on employment planning and productivity enhancement strategies in Tanzania (15-19 October 1990). The seminar was attended by 48 senior government officials and participants from parastatals and higher institutions; UNDP and ILO also participated.

51. The secretariat collaborated with Garden College, Lusaka, Zambia in organizing a national workshop on methods, techniques and strategies for improving the delivery capabilities of non-formal education for national development (19-24 November 1990). The workshop was attended by 20 participants engaged in non-formal education, literacy and adult education programmes. Measures for making non-formal education more responsive to national development needs were proposed.

52. The secretariat attended a meeting organized by UNESCO in June 1990 to prepare for MINENDAF VI. In February 1991, the secretariat prepared a paper entitled Africa's socio-economic development priorities in the 1990s and beyond: Implications for literary and basic education for presentation to MINENDAF VI.

53. The major problems and constraints experienced during the period have continued to be financial. There is need for making available financial resources for support of meetings and for the collection of data for technical publications.

Pan-African Documentation and Information System (PADIS)

54. In order to improve the ability of national centres to participate in the PADIS network, PADIS held the following training courses:

(a) Addis Ababa, from 14 to 25 May 1990, for participants from Botswana, Ethiopia, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania;

(b) Ouagadougou, from 16 to 20 July 1990, for participants from Burkina Faso;

(c) Addis Ababa, from 15 to 26 October 1990, for participants from Lesotho, Somalia and Uganda;

(d) Maseru, from 18 February to 1 March 1991, for participants from Lesotho;

(e) Kampala, from 18 to 22 March 1991, for participants from Uganda.

55. PADIS also organized subregional and regional training courses in techniques for computerized management of bibliographic data. These included:

(a) Two courses (one for English- and the other for French-speaking) for documentalists from Kagera Basin Organization (KBO) member States (Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania), Kigali, from 14 to 23 May 1990;

(b) PADIS methodologies, for PADIS institutional participating centres, Addis Ababa, from 19 to 23 November 1990;

(c) A regional course (English-speaking countries) in techniques of desktop publishing, Addis Ababa, from 26 November to 5 December 1990;

(d) A regional workshop stressing human resource aspects of information management, Harare, from 10 to 14 December 1990.

56. PADIS training activities also included the operation of a fellowship programme for staff of national, subregional and institutional participating centres. During the period, a fellowship was awarded to an intern from KBO.

57. At the request of member States, institutional participating centres and other organizations, PADIS delivered advisory services on a wide range of topics relating to development information management. During the period, these included:

(a) Botswana, on the formation of a national information network, from 4 to 8 June 1990;

(b) Lesotho, on the establishment of a national participating centre and information system, from 11 to 15 June 1990;

(c) Zimbabwe, on the establishment of a national participating centre and participation in the PADIS network, from 24 to 28 September 1990;

(d) Djibouti, on the establishment of a national documentation centre and the formation of a national information network, from 6 to 12 October 1990;

(e) Kenya, on the formation of a national information network, from 30 October to 9 November 1990;

(f) Cameroon, on the designation of a national information centre, from 26 November to 1 December 1990;

(g) Equatorial Guinea, on the establishment of a national information system, from 14 to 19 January 1991;

(h) East and Southern African Management Institute with International Development Research Centre (IDRC) sponsorship, on information management curriculum development, Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 21 to 25 May 1990;

(i) Standing Conference of Eastern, Southern and Central African Librarians, on information for women in development, Kampala, Uganda, on 21 and 22 June 1990;

(j) International Energy Foundation, on the establishment of an energy data bank, library and information network, Tripoli, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, from 26 August to 1 September 1990;

(k) African Regional Centre for Technology, on the utilization of microcomputers and appropriate software for information processing, Rabat, Morocco, from 22 to 25 October 1990;

(l) Population Information Network in Africa Advisory Committee, Accra, Ghana, from 9 to 16 October 1990;

(m) Munich Centre on Statistical Training, on survey data processing in Africa as an aspect of the social dimensions of adjustment policies, Munich, from 18 to 23 February 1991.

58. Data base development expanded on several fronts. PAD-DEV, the PADIS bibliographic data base on economic and social, scientific and technological aspects of African development literature to which national participating centres contribute, grew to more than 19,000 entries. Of these, about 80 per cent of the new records were contributed by PADIS national centres.

59. The number of records in PADCOM, the PADIS complementary files series (data bases acquired from United Nations organizations and other international bodies) increased to nearly 500,000. These data bases generally fall into four categories: (a) bibliographical, (b) referral, (c) numerical and (d) full-text. Newly acquired data bases include several on CD-ROM (SESAME, a reference data base on agricultural research and rural development, from the Ministry of Research and Technology in France; POPLINE, bibliographical data base on population information produced by Johns Hopkins University in the United States of America, and Distance Education Database of the Commonwealth of Learning in the United Kingdom) as well as the data base of African Scholarly Journals, from the African Association of Science Editors. The successful electronic linking of the PADIS mini-computer with the mainframe computer of the United Nations New York Computing Service permitted access in the African region, through PADIS, to the online data bases of the United Nations Secretariat, including UNDICS, UNSIS and UNPRESS. These data bases, together with PADDEV, were used to generate the Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI) service and for retrospective search services.

60. The data base on African experts grew by approximately 300 entries during the reporting period. Contents of the data base were used for search services and for the preparation of an updated edition of the Directory of African Experts.

61. A new data base, PADDAB, was created as a data base of African data bases and information systems. The first entries in this data base were contributed by PADIS institutional participating centres.

62. During the period, the number of national participating centres increased to 34. Those countries which joined the network during the period were Djibouti, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Sierra Leone, Tunisia and Zimbabwe. Many of these national centres received advisory services from PADIS and started to contribute inputs to PADIS data bases.

63. The Standing Committee on the Harmonization of Documentation and Information Systems in Africa met in Addis Ababa from 11 to 15 November 1990. This latter meeting is a major forum for the promotion of information exchange and systems compatibility in the African region. The number of institutional participating centres in the PADIS network increased by seven during the period.

64. The status of the subregional centres was raised by the In-depth UNDP Evaluation Mission of PADIS, which completed its work in July 1990. The mission felt that developments in information technology rendered the need for subregional centres as collection and processing nodes redundant. The

question was to be brought to the attention of the Subregional Technical Committees for PADIS meeting in the second quarter of 1991. While funding for the subregional centres remained in question, initiatives by ECA and its member States furthered the viability of two of the subregional centres. In January 1991, the Niamey-based MULPOC secured the services of a United Nations volunteer specialist in informatics who was put at the disposal of the West African Development Information System (WADIS) in Niamey. The Government of Zambia seconded a computer operator to the Eastern and Southern African Development Information System (ESADIS), which is located at the MULPOC office in Lusaka. Both staff members undertook training in the operation of their respective subregional computer facilities and in PADIS methodologies at PADIS in Addis Ababa in March 1991.

65. In order to increase the utilization of the network and increase the delivery speed of requests and responses, PADIS initiated, with IDRC assistance, a project entitled "Computer networking in Africa." The project is testing many newly developed forms of information technology which have not been introduced hitherto or have only been used on a limited basis in Africa. A training workshop in data communication was held in Addis Ababa from 25 February to 1 March 1991 for participants from 14 countries of the region.

66. The project continued to deliver services to users in the form of: (a) published indexes to development literature; (b) SDI bulletins; (c) customized question/answer service; and (d) documents/microfiche delivery.

67. National and institutional participating centres received magnetic tapes and diskettes containing references to development information from PADIS and PADIS-COMP bibliographic, referral and statistical data bases.

68. Online services are being developed for worldwide utilization through the PADIS computer networking project.

69. PADIS serviced the Subregional Technical Committees for PADIS for the Eastern and Southern Africa subregion (Lusaka, 19-20 March 1991) and for West Africa (Niamey, 26-27 March). Technical reports were prepared for these meetings. Another meeting of the Subregional Technical Committee for PADIS scheduled to be held in Rabat in January 1991 had been postponed; its rescheduling was awaited. The Regional Technical Committee for PADIS met in Addis Ababa on 24 and 25 April 1991.

70. PADIS undertook a study on development information utilization problems and user needs in Fraench-speaking countries of Africa. Its results were presented to the Regional Technical Committee for PADIS meeting in April 1991.

71. During the period, PADIS published four issues, in English and in French and Arabic, of its quarterly newsletter. Three current awareness bulletins of DEVINDEX-Africa were published.

72. The above-noted UNDP evaluation noted, inter alia, that "the creation of a development information system and network for Africa, which PADIS is assigned to address, still remains an important and worthy objective meriting the support of the international donor community. . . The need for and usefulness of the activities under project RAF/86/053, PADIS III, are recognized and expressed as such by the member States. . . . Starting from a meager basis, PADIS has shown remarkable progress in all fields related to its immediate objectives (growth in number of national participating centres, increase in number of data banks, increase in contents of data banks, increased use of products and services, training, advisory services and servicing of meetings provided.)"

73. The activities of PADIS are believed to have contributed to a measurable increase in the number of personnel in the region trained in up-to-date techniques of information management, in the number of institutions involved in a network for development information exchange and in the acceptance of norms and standards for the harmonization of development documentation and information.

74. PADIS itself faces a number of problems in the immediate future regarding its continuation. Its staff are all paid from extrabudgetary funds; funds for their continuation will be available only until the end of June 1991. In order for PADIS to continue through 1991 and beyond, present donors will have to continue their contributions, others donors will have to be found and support will need to be forthcoming from the regular budget of the United Nations. The present time is thus one of immediate crisis for PADIS staff. It is hoped that a positive solution to this situation will be found.

Environment

75. Activities of the secretariat in the area of combating drought and desertification included:

(a) Advisory services mission to Lesotho, October 1990;

(b) Advisory services mission to the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC), based in Lesotho, October 1990;

(c) Participation in the Angolan National Forum on Drought and Desertification Control, September-October 1990;

(d) Participation in the Regional Conference on Economic Development and Environmental Sustainability in West Africa - The Responsibility of Northern and Southern NGOs, Ghana, September 1990;

(e) Participation in the seventeenth meeting of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Desertification, Rome, September 1990.

76. A progress report on the preparation of plans of action to combat desertification was submitted for discussion at the sixth meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment in March 1991. A technical publication on techniques of desertification control in selected African countries was under preparation.

77. Support was provided to the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD). The Director-General of ACMAD was recruited in November 1990, and was expected to assume his function shortly. The Board of Governors of ACMAD met in November 1990.

78. A report on the status of the dumping of hazardous industrial wastes and the movement of major potentially toxic materials was submitted to the ECA Conference of Ministers in May 1991. Guidelines for monitoring the movement and dumping of hazardous industrial wastes and potentially toxic materials in Africa was under preparation.

79. The secretariat cooperated closely with the OAU in drafting the African Convention on the Ban on the Importation of all Forms of Hazardous Wastes into Africa and the Control of the Transboundary Movement of such Wastes Generated in Africa. The Convention was signed by African States at the OAU Pan-African Conference on Environment and Development in Bamako in January 1991.

80. Technical publications produced by the secretariat during the period under review included the Environment Newsletter, vol. 1, Nos. 1, 2 and 3 for 1990.

81. In the preparation for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), the secretariat:

(a) Established an inter-divisional task force in August 1990;

(b) Convened a Forum of Eminent Africans in February 1991, to consider the draft document to be submitted to UNCED;

(c) Made preparations for the regional Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in Cairo in July 1991;

(d) Supported and contributed to various subregional preparatory meetings, including the CILSS/IGADD/UNSO consultative meeting, in Ouagadougou in February 1991, the pan-African conference on environment and development, in Bamako in January 1991, and to all five MULPOC policy organ meetings in March-April 1991;

(e) Participated in the meetings of the preparatory committee of the UNCED secretariat in Geneva in March-April 1991 (second session).

82. In this preparatory process for UNCED, close cooperation was maintained with the UNCED secretariat, UNEP, UNDP, UNSO, subregional intergovernmental organizations such as the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD), and non-governmental organizations such as the Pan-African Union for Science and Technology, the African Association for the Advancement of Science and Technology, and the Centre for the Future.

Human settlements

83. In the area of policy development and institution building, the secretariat prepared a review of trends and problems in the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 in Africa (E/ECA/HUS/51) and guidelines on the formulation of integrated national policies and programmes facilitating the implementation of the Global Shelter Strategy (E/ECA/HUS/48). A significant contribution to the formulation of the above-mentioned guidelines was made by the expert group meeting, which was organized by the secretariat in Addis Ababa, in November 1990.

84. In addition, the secretariat produced a report on selected measures conducive to accelerated sustainable rural transformation in the African region (E/ECA/HUS/50), and guidelines on the establishment by governments of networks of human settlements training institutions and on-the-job training (E/ECA/HUS/47).

85. Four reports (E/ECA/HUS/49, 50, 51 and 52) were submitted to the sixth meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment which took place at ECA headquarters from 4 to 8 March 1991.

86. In the area of resource development and utilization, the secretariat prepared a report on a regional project for the development of building materials industries in Africa (E/ECA/HUS/52), which contains a number of recommendations on strengthening regional mechanisms for cooperation.

87. Special attention was given to the use of appropriate technology in the provision of low-income shelter infrastructure and services in rural areas (E/ECA/HUS/49). A report on the above subject was discussed by the sixth meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment.

88. At the request of the Ministère sénégalais de l'équipement, des transports et du logement, an advisory mission was undertaken to Dakar to assist that Ministry in carrying out preliminary activities relevant to a regional project for the development of building materials industries in Africa.

Industrial development

89. In addition to its regular programme, the secretariat has undertaken various activities geared towards the preparation of a programme for the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA).

90. In the area of policy development, planning and institution building, five technical publications were produced: three "Focus on African Industry" bulletins, one publication on assessment of the performance of multinational industrial enterprises and one publication on ways and means of developing appropriate industrial technology and human resources through cooperative activities between universities, industrial research and development institutions and enterprises. In addition, five reports on mechanisms for enhancing industrial integration and cooperation were prepared and presented to the meetings of the various MULPOC policy organs, together with the progress reports on the implementation of the multinational industrial projects of the IDDA (Niamey- and Tangier-based MULPOCs).

91. In cooperation with the OAU and UNIDO, the secretariat prepared a framework for assisting member States and subregional intergovernmental organizations such as PTA, ECCAS and ECOWAS in the preparation of their national and subregional programmes for the second IDDA. In addition, the secretariat recruited 60 local experts from 43 member countries and fielded two senior consultants (for English- and French-speaking countries respectively) to assist in and accelerate the preparation of the national programmes. Regarding the preparation of the subregional programmes, two senior consultants were fielded.

92. In the field of metallurgical industries, the secretariat has prepared one technical publication entitled "Development of metallurgical support to the production of agricultural tools and equipment in North Africa", and two reports to the policy organs of the Niamey-based MULPOC on the potential development of the manufacture of iron and steel products and aluminium products in West Africa. In addition, a technical publication entitled "Political economic importance of the iron and steel industry in Nigeria" was prepared on the request of the Nigerian Iron and Steel Committee.

93. In the field of engineering industries, two reports (one on the potential for the manufacture of copper products and one on the potential for the manufacture of steel products) were prepared and presented to the meetings of the policy organs of the Lusaka-based MULPOC. During the period under review, the secretariat has also prepared one technical publication on guidelines for the manufacture of irrigation equipment in Africa.

94. In the chemical industries subsector, the activities of the secretariat were concentrated on the development of chemical inputs such as fertilizers and pesticides to agriculture. To this effect, a feasibility report on the establishment of an African regional network for agricultural chemicals and machinery was prepared for presentation to the tenth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry.

95. The secretariat continued its efforts to boost composite flours production and utilization throughout the continent. In this connection, a training manual was produced to train trainers on composite flours technology. A model pre-feasibility study for a national composite flours programme has also been prepared and circulated to the member States.

96. In the field of roots and tubers and oilseeds processing, several African R & D institutes such as the "Institut de technologie tropicale" in Côte d'Ivoire and the "Centre national d'étude et d'experimentation du machinisme agricole" in Cameroon have made available new, appropriate and cost-effective technologies and equipment for local entrepreneurs for processing cassava and palm oil. Based on these findings, the following two reports were prepared and presented to the meetings of the policy organs of the Yaounde-based MULPOC: (a) experience in Nigeria and Cameroon in industrial designs of improved small-scale palm-oil extraction equipment; and (b) the transfer of Ivorian cassava processing technology to countries in the subregion.

97. Activities in the area of small-scale industries centred on the preparation of technical publications and reports to assist member States, industrial institutional infrastructures and endogenous industrial entrepreneurs in the development and promotion of their small-scale industrial capabilities. To this end, the following technical publications were produced during the period under review:

(a) Experiences of selected countries in the development and processing of local raw material for medium- and small-scale industries;

(b) Directory of project profiles on institutional support for small-scale industries;

(c) Directory of project profiles in metal working industries and medicinal plants processing for small-scale industries;

(d) Legal and administrative procedure for setting up small-scale industrial entreprises for concerned institutions; and

(e) Manual for extension services for small-scale industries.

98. A report on investment promotion and mobilization of investment resources for small scale industries was prepared and presented to the meetings of the policy organs of the Gisenyi-based MULPOC. A workshop on the development of entrepreneurial capability for cottage and small scale industries with particular emphasis on the role of women in the promotion of industrial development was held in Kampala, Uganda for the Eastern and Southern African subregion.

99. During the period under review, the secretariat undertook a number of activities geared towards the preparation of the programme for the second IDDA in close collaboration with UNIDO and the OAU. Those activities included the recruitment of local experts to assist member States in the preparation of their national programmes and the recruitment of international consultants to assist subregional intergovernmental organizations in the preparation of their subregional programmes as well as the organization of the meeting of the Working Group of Governmental Experts. The national and subregional programmes will be used as inputs in the preparation of the programme for the second IDDA. In addition, the three secretariats of ECA, UNIDO and the OAU organized and serviced three meetings in Harare, Zimbabwe, from 4 to 10 March 1991, namely the meeting of the experts of the member countries of the bureau of the ninth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry, the meeting of the bureau and the meeting of the joint committee. The three meetings were to review the progress made in the preparation of the programme for the second IDDA and to take necessary actions for the follow-up of the decisions of the bureau.

100. The secretariat also participated in a meeting of the UNDP/ECA/UNIDO/ARCT/ARCEDEM/Joint Steering Committee held at the African Regional Centre for Technology (ARCT), Dakar, on 10 and 11 January 1991. The meeting was to examine the possibility for ARCEDEM and ARCT to coordinate and harmonize their activities and to develop activities which will generate income or revenue for the two centres, making them more self-reliant.

International trade and development finance

101. During the period, the secretariat undertook a number of activities focusing on trade development and finance issues.

102. The special session of the Conference of African Ministers of Trade, held in Addis Ababa from 14 to 17 December 1990, culminated in the adoption of Strategies for Revitalization, Recovery and Growth of Africa's Trade in the 1990s and Beyond (E/ECA/TRADE/90/25/Rev. 5).

103. This session was held pursuant to the decision of the tenth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Trade (17 to 18 November 1989) after it had considered the draft Strategies for Revitalizing Africa's Trade, Recovery and Growth in the 1990s (E/ECA/TRADE/89/25/Rev.1). It decided to allow member States more time to consult as widely as possible on the issues contained in the draft Strategies as they affected many trade-related activities.

104. In respect of monetary and financial issues, the secretariat convened the second meeting of the Enlarged Committee of Libreville on the Establishment of an African Monetary Fund (AfMF) on 29 and 30 November 1990. This meeting examined all outstanding issues pertaining to the establishment of the proposed AfMF and will submit its recommendations to the forthcoming Conference of African Ministers of Finance.

105. In this connection, the meeting considered the feasibility study on the establishment of an African Monetary Fund contained in document E/ECA/TRADE/90/2 that had been prepared on the basis of proposals by the Ad hoc Meeting of Experts on the establishment of an African Monetary Fund held from 27 November to 1 December 1989.

106. Other activities undertaken were the convening of a subregional workshop on the promotion of domestic trade, in Addis Ababa, from 17 to 19 September 1990. The workshop considered a report entitled "General domestic trade structures and institutions in African countries" (E/ECA/TRADE/90/4). Participants were national directors or persons actually responsible for overseeing implementation of domestic trade. Recommendations centred on improvement of distribution networks, development of infrastructures, pricing policies and facilities for pricing policies.

107. The secretariat undertook two studies relating to intra-African trade: one on trade facilitation and liberalization within the subregional economic groupings of PTA, SADCC and SACU (E/ECA/TRADE/91/9) and the other relating to ECOWAS (E/ECA/TRADE/91/12). The two studies were presented to the meetings of the policy organs of the Lusaka and Niamey MULPOCs respectively.

108. The meeting of the intergovernmental group of experts on prospects for South-South trade promotion in processed and semi-processed products was held in Addis Ababa, from 2 to 5 October 1990. The meeting considered documents on Processing of African raw materials into useable tradeable products (E/ECA/IND/GEN/1/89), Prospects for trade promotion in semi-processed products between Africa and other developing countries (E/ECA/TRADE/90/9), and Subregional trade potential in Africa south of the Sahara: A possible programme of action for the promotion of intra-African trade, contributed by the International Trade Centre (ITC). The meeting urged African countries to take immediate measures not only to arrest but also to reverse the trend in deindustrialization. It also called for accelerating the processing of Africa's abundant raw materials.

109. In the domain of international negotiations, the secretariat participated in the first part of the thirty-seventh session of the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board at Geneva from 5 to 17 October 1990. During this mission, consultations were held with UNCTAD on aspects relating to the forthcoming UNCTAD-VIII. The secretariat also took part in a seminar on commodity aid and counterpart funds for Africa, organized by the Institute of Development Studies of the University of Sussex and chaired by one of two working groups on food aid.

110. In the area of money and finance, the secretariat participated in the meeting of the Working Party of African Governors Preparatory to the 1990 Annual Meetings of the Boards of Governors of the IMF and the World Bank, which took place in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire from 30 July to 1 August 1990.

111. A paper entitled Money, finance and adjustments in Africa (E/ECA/TRADE/90/3/Rev.1) was presented at that meeting as the secretariat's input to the Draft Joint Statement, the Draft Memorandum to the Managing Director of the IMF and the Draft Memorandum to the President of the World Bank. To a large extent, specific issues reflected most major issues raised in AAF-SAP. As a follow up to the meeting of the Working Party mentioned above, the secretariat also participated in the Annual Meetings of the Boards of Governors of the IMF and the World Bank Group in Washington, D.C., from 20 to 27 September 1990 where the Draft Statement and the Memoranda were considered.

112. At a regional level, the secretariat participated in the sixteenth ordinary General Assembly of African Development Finance Institutions, from 23 to 26 May 1990, the twenty-sixth annual General Assembly of

ADB and the seventeenth annual General Assembly of the African Development Fund, from 28 to 31 May 1990, in Abidjan.

113. The annual meetings of ADB were preceded by a symposium on intra-African trade that discussed measures for the promotion of intra-African trade at different levels: government; African entrepreneurs; and financial institutions.

114. Among research papers undertaken by the secretariat in the area of money and finance included were: Mechanisms for harmonizing the operation of subregional clearing and payments arrangement for the promotion of intra-African trade (E/ECA/TRADE/18); Mobilization and management of domestic and external resources (technical publication, E/ECA/TRADE/90/8); Exchange risks and their management by African development banks (E/ECA/TRADE/90/7); Africa's external debt crisis: The rationale for the Kampala seminar (E/ECA/TRADE/90/22); and Formulation of a sound strategy for the management of external debt and resources of African countries (E/ECA/TRADE/90/1).

115. The secretariat participated in the meeting of the Ministers of Finance of the Preferential Trade Area (PTA) for Eastern and Southern African States in Nairobi, Kenya, on 27 and 28 October 1990. This meeting was preceded by a meeting of experts from central banks and senior economists from Ministries of Finance on the expeditious implementation of priority projects of the PTA that considered the report of the study team on a PTA monetary harmonization programme and made recommendations to the Ministers.

116. The secretariat prepared and distributed FLASH on Trade Opportunities and the African Trade Bulletin on trade-related activities to various users such as ministries of trade, chambers of commerce, private and public business firms, etc.

117. A technical publication, Marketing research and planning for executives and experts of national trade promotion centres (E/ECA/TRADE/90/21), was also prepared.

118. A training seminar on export marketing, import management and procurement for women business executives and officials of ministries of trade was organized by the Finnish Programme for Development Cooperation (PRODEC), in co-operation with the secretariat and the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Trade and with the support of ITC/UNCTAD/GATT in Addis Ababa, from 15 October to 9 November 1990. The major topics covered during the four-week seminar were entrepreneurship, business administration, financial management and business negotiations. The secretariat provided background documents covering issues such as Africa's external debt, development issues, policies and prospects (E/ECA/TRADE/90/12). These papers recommended the improvement in the conditions of African women traders through the removal of legal, social, economic, religious, and cultural constraints.

119. A seminar was jointly organized by ASTRO and ECA on the management and development of state trading organizations (STOs) for sub-Saharan African countries, in Ljubljana, Yugoslavia, from 28 May to 2 June 1990. Among the major subjects discussed were the role of STOs and the State and their relation, human resource development, trade information in STOs, programming of strategies for STOs, financial management and legal aspects of international trade.

Natural resources

120. During the period under review, the secretariat continued its technical assistance to the Eastern and Southern African Mineral Resources Development Centre (ESAMRDC) in Dodoma, United Republic of Tanzania, and to the subregional economic groupings as ECOWAS and the Liptako-Gourma Authority.

121. The secretariat was involved in a capital development programme set up by ESAMRDC aimed at establishing some laboratories. It also contributed to an analysis of ESAMRDC's current organizational structure.

122. The secretariat assisted ECOWAS in the preparation of a project document on the establishment of a mineral resources development centre in West Africa, which will be presented to a meeting of the Community in April 1991.

123. The secretariat assisted the Liptako-Gourma Authority to identify projects in the field of small-scale gold mining and also to organize and strengthen this activity in member States.

124. The secretariat organized a seminar on the contribution of the African non-fuel mineral sectors towards Africa's economic advancement, in Harare in 1990, and published in early 1991 an assessment of coal resources in Africa. It also convened the fourth Regional Conference on Mineral Resources Development and Utilization in Africa, in Ouagadougou from 18 to 27 March 1991. Studies on precious and semi-precious minerals and metals; mining and environment and iron ore production and its future in Africa were presented.

125. A meeting of experts from the Undugu Group member States was organized to review and analyze a basic framework for a master plan for developing infrastructure and natural resources in these countries. The expert group meeting endorsed a number of conclusions and recommendations for consideration by the Group's ministerial meeting. The secretariat serviced the seventh ministerial meeting of the Undugu Group member States, in Addis Ababa, on 27 February 1991.

126. The secretariat participated in and presented technical issue papers at the all-Africa regional consultation meeting, in Abidjan from 7 to 11 May 1990 on regional perspectives and strategies for 1990s and beyond in the field of water supply and sanitation activities.

127. The secretariat also actively participated at the international symposium on water policy and technology, held in Cairo in June 1990 and at the global consultation on water supply and sanitation, held in New Delhi, India, in September 1990.

128. The third issue of Maji, the ECA information bulletin on water resources activities in Africa, was published in December 1990.

129. Fact-finding missions were undertaken to six North African countries, namely Egypt, the Sudan, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia on proposals for the rational use and conservation of water resources in those countries. A detailed study was prepared and will be published next year. A summary report of the study was prepared for submission to the Tangier-based MULPOC policy organs in early 1991.

130. The secretariat assisted the Nile basin countries in organizing an expert group meeting to be held in May-June 1991 to review and finalize the revised terms of reference suggested by one member State (Ethiopia) for an ECA/UNDP fact-finding mission to these countries. The secretariat provided assistance to the technical committee, designated to carry out the task on behalf of member States, on the strategies and modalities for the meeting.

131. During the period under review, the secretariat continued to provided advisory services to the Regional Centre for Services in Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing (RCSSMRS) in Nairobi. A team, set up to conduct an internal evaluation of the Centre's responsiveness in project implementation, proposed a number of measures which the Governing Council should take in order to enhance credibility, better management of technical co-operation programmes, and to raise the project implementation rate.

132. The secretariat provided technical backstopping to the Regional Centre for Training in Aerospace Surveys (RECTAS), in Ile-Ife, Nigeria, in the improvement of administrative and policy matters. The secretariat also carried out actions referred to it by the Centre's Governing Council.

133. In pursuance of the recommendation of Conference of Ministers resolution 692 (XXV), operative paragraph 2, concerning the establishment of hydrographic surveying and nautical charting services in Africa, a project proposal was drawn up for presentation to UNDP for consideration and funding during its Fifth Programming Cycle. The International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) identified countries that would be willing to support the project within the framework of North-South cooperation.

134. With regard to data collection, contacts were made with national cartographic institutions for the supply of information on land tenure policies and cadastral survey regulations, to enable the publication of a compendium on the subject. While the response was not satisfactory, efforts are continuing to collect data for the eventual publication of the first instalment of the compendium.

135. Following the recommendation of the seventh United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa, held in Ouagadougou in September 1989, that the Niger should be assisted in establishing a national cartographic institution, the secretariat carried out an appraisal of the existing facilities and submitted its recommendations to the Government of that country.

136. The first edition of the cartographic and remote sensing bulletin was published. Also published was the 1990 edition of the accessions list containing a list of maps, charts, and other cartographic publications received by the secretariat's Map Documentation and Reference Centre.

Energy and development

137. In the area of energy and development, an advisory services mission was undertaken to the ECOWAS secretariat to prepare terms of reference for the study on electrical energy production and distribution in West Africa, and on the possibility of inter-connecting electric power grids in the ECOWAS subregion. Assistance was provided to the African Regional Centre for Solar Energy (ARCSE) on technical, managerial and economic aspects of solar energy development in Africa. ARCSE is supported by 22 African member States and is to be the main agency in Africa for the development of new and renewable sources of energy.

138. A paper on the "Contribution of NRSE to integrated rural development in Africa" was prepared and submitted to the Interagency Group and to the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Committee on the Development and Utilization of NRSE, held in New York, from 26 March to 4 April 1990. A report on the possibilities of increasing efficiency in the overall energy utilization in all sectors in order to achieve higher levels of production was prepared and submitted to the meetings of the Gisenyi-based MULPOC policy organs in March 1991.

139. Two technical publications dealing with the possibilities of developing small energy resources and of developing strategies for reducing wastage in commercial energy were prepared and distributed to member States.

140. A report on the economics of ethanol production and utilization in some Eastern and Southern African member States as a means of enhancing biomass energy utilization and curtailing the use of imported oil for transport was prepared and submitted to the meetings of the Lusaka-based MULPOC policy organs in March 1991.

Population

141. In the field of population, the secretariat continued to assist member States through its regional advisory services. Such assistance included:

(a) Evaluation and analysis of census of survey data, preparation of tabulation, evaluation and analysis plans (beneficiaries: the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, the Central African Republic, Swaziland and Mali);

(b) Project formulation, needs assessment and project development (beneficiaries: Côte d'Ivoire, Angola and the Niger);

(c) In Lesotho, local personnel were trained and given guidance in analysis of population census data;

(d) A series of lectures on population and urbanization and rural development was delivered at Makerere University in Uganda;

(e) Assistance was also provided to the East African Statistical Training Institute in the United Republic of Tanzania on a training course in demography;

(f) A subregional training workshop on the use of micro-computers in data analysis was held in Ghana (with 16 participants from Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Mauritius, Nigeria, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe);

(g) The secretariat also helped to organize and service a seminar on population and development in Gabon;

(h) Lectures were given to students of the Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS) in Accra and the Cairo Demographic Centre.

142. Some of the problems encountered in the provision of advisory services included communication difficulties causing delays in correspondence between the secretariat and member States and data processing problems. There have also been uncertainties about the future orientation and functioning of those activities.

143. The secretariat prepared and distributed the following studies:

(a) Statistical compendium on contraceptive prevalence and practice in African countries [ECA/POP/TP/90/1/1.2(ii)(a)]. Countries included in the compendium are Burundi, Botswana, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria (Ondo State), Rwanda, Senegal, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zaire and Zimbabwe. The compendium gives a general overview on knowledge of contraception; overuse of contraception; actual use of contraceptive methods; non-use of contraception and potential future use of and need for family planning. Commentaries were provided on individual country data;

(b) Mortality patterns, trends, differentials and life-table in African countries [ECA/POP/TP/90/3(2.2(a)]. The study covered five countries, namely Botswana, Malawi, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The results of the study suggested that mortality had been falling gradually (particularly infant and child mortality) because of health programmes being implemented by most countries in the African region. The results also suggested that, as had been observed in other countries, mortality levels were higher for males than for females;

(c) Life-table analyses of birth intervals with illustrative applications in selected African countries [ECA/POP/TP/90/2/2.1(a)]. Life-table techniques were used to analyze birth intervals data in Cameroon, Kenya and Senegal;

(d) Two issues of the African Population Newsletter (January-June 1990; June-December 1990);

(e) African Directory of Demographers;

(f) POPIN-Africa Country Bibliography series (two issues on Ghana and Ethiopia); and

(g) A new edition of African Population Profile, and the 1990 issue of POPIN-Africa.

144. The secretariat also completed and presented the following reports to meetings:

(a) Implications of the apparent impact of SAPs on population (E/ECA/CM.17/10), submitted to the seventeenth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers, May 1991;

(b) Consistency of United Nations projections with those prepared by selected sub-Saharan African countries, submitted to the Ad hoc Inter-Agency Working Group on Demographic Estimates and Projections, New York, 6-8 June 1990;

(c) Consideration of some strategies for the African regional population information clearing house and network during 1992-1993, submitted to the UNFPA sub-Saharan Africa meeting, Kampala, November 1990;

(d) Report on the status of population information dissemination activities of ECA and consideration of actions for the 1990s (E/ECA/CM.17/27), submitted to the ECA Conference of Ministers, May 1991.

145. In the area of population information dissemination the following activities were undertaken by the population information network in Africa (POPIN-Africa) project:

(a) Servicing the third POPIN-Africa Advisory Committee meeting in Accra, Ghana, from 15 to 18 October 1990;

(b) Management of reference centre and four referral data bases, namely bibliographic referral file on population information; data base on population experts in African demography; data base; data base on population institutions and projects in Africa; textual data base on press-related information on African population issues;

(c) Preparation and dissemination of promotional and sensitization materials, for example, at the ECA Conference of Ministers in Tripoli, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, in May 1990, at which a demonstration of the project's data base was also mounted;

(d) With regard to the development of network nodes, contacts were maintained with UNFPA country offices and an assessment of the needs and requirements of these centres was undertaken.

146. The secretariat participated in the following population-related meetings: UNFPA regional meeting on population for sub-Saharan Africa, Kampala, 12-17 November 1990; twenty-sixth session of the Population Commission, New York, 24 February - 9 March 1991; International Conference on Population Environment and Climate Change, Lagos, June 1990; Colloquium on the setting up of observatory on the Sahara-Sahel Zone, Paris, June 1990; International Conference on aging in the context of the family, Kitakyushu, Japan, 15-19 October 1990; Symposium on the mega-city and the future: Population growth and policy responses, Tokyo, 22-25 October 1990; UNFPA POPIN Coordinating Committee meeting, New York, 10-15 June 1990; and the IPPF-Africa Regional Council meeting, Lome, Togo, 28 June - 3 July 1990.

147. During the period under review, the secretariat continued its administrative support to the Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS) in Accra, the Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques (IFORD) in Yaoundé, and the Centre d'études et de recherche sur la population pour le développement (CERPOD) at the Sahel Institute in Bamako.

Public administration and finance

148. The following technical publications and reports were prepared during the period under review:

(a) Measures for the development of critical skills for the formulation and implementation of economic development strategies and programmes in Africa (ECA/PHSD/PAM/91/2[1.1(iii)(c)]);

(b) Successful cases among public enterprises in Africa (ECA/PHSD/PAM/90/11[1.2(ii)(a)]);

(c) Report to the Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Human Resources Planning, Development and Utilization on measures for the retraining and redeployment of personnel retrenched in the wake of the economic crisis and policy reforms (ECA/PHSD/PAM/90/5(1.1)(i));

(d) Report to the ECA Conference of Ministers on public service ethics in Africa: Emerging trends and their implications (ECA/PHSD/PAM/91/1[1.1(ii)]);

(e) Report to the ECA Conference of Ministers on review of recent experience in public enterprise reform and privatization (ECA/PHSD/PAM/90/12[1.2(I)(A)];

(f) Report to the ECA Conference of Ministers on public participation in development planning and management (ECA/PHSD/PAM/90/4[1.2(i)(d)]).

149. The secretariat, in collaboration with government institutions in member States, organized the following national training courses:

(a) Workshop on "La décentralisation au fins du redressment économique et du developpement" for senior officials of decentralized administrations, in collaboration with the Ecole nationale d'administration et de magistrature de Ouagadougou, from 18 to 28 June 1990. Thirty participants attended the workshop;

(b) Workshop on the improvement of local services for public sector officials of the Ethiopian Government, in collaboration with the Ethiopian Management Institute, Debre Zeit, Ethiopia, from 13 to 20 August 1990. Twenty-three officials participated in the workshop.

150. The Special Action Programme for Administration and Management (SAPAM) project, drawn up in collaboration with UNDP, commenced its operational activities in March 1990.

151. In implementing the SAPAM project, the secretariat conducted a senior policy seminar on entrepreneurship development, a senior policy workshop on improving performance of African Public Enterprises and co-organized the twelfth African Association of Public Administration and Management (AAPAM) roundtable conference on mobilizing the informal sector and non-governmental organizations for Africa's recovery and development.

152. The senior policy seminar was conducted in Cairo from 8 to 12 October 1990 in collaboration with AAPAM. Its theme was the creation of an enabling environment for enhancing entrepreneurship in the public and private sectors in Africa. It was attended by 34 policy-makers in the public and private sectors from 14 African countries.

153. The senior policy workshop on improving the performance of public enterprises in Africa was held in Debre Zeit from 12 to 16 November 1990. The workshop's broad aim was to facilitate an exchange of experiences on modalities for the improvement of the performance of public enterprises in Africa. It was attended by 27 participants representing 17 African countries and three international and regional organizations.

154. The twelfth AAPAM roundtable conference, jointly organized by the secretariat and AAPAM, took place in Abuja, Nigeria, from 3 to 8 December 1990. It was attended by 100 participants representing 21 countries and international organizations, northern non-governmental organizations as well as African NGOs.

155. Two books based on the Debre Zeit workshop and the Abuja roundtable conference are at the stage of final editing and are expected to be published during the year.

156. In the area of budgetary and taxation systems, the following technical publications were prepared:

(a) Restructuring public expenditure for economic recovery and transformation: Recent trends in selected African countries (ECA/PHSD/BUD/90/4[2.1(a)]);

(b) Assessment of the impact of government budgetary policies in selected African countries (ECA/PHSD/BUD/90/5l[2.1(d)]);

(c) Measures for improving public financial accountability (ECA/PHSD/BUD/91/1[2.1(b)]);

(d) Leakages in the mobilization of domestic financial resources for socio-economic development: a review of recent trends and their impact in selected African countries (ECA/PHSD/BUD/90/8[2.2(b)]);

(e) Organization and managements of income tax departments for improved administration of taxes (ECA/PHSD/BUD/90[2.2(d)]).

157. The secretariat organized the following national workshops:

(a) "Ways and means of strengthening the management of public expenditure planning", organized in collaboration with the National Institute of Public Administration, in Maseru from 7 to 27 April 1990 for public financial management officials of the Government of Lesotho. Twenty-four participants attended the workshop;

(b) "Reforming of taxation systems, policies and tax administration", organized in collaboration with the Institute of Public Administration, in Kampala from 16 to 27 July 1990. Twenty-one taxation and financial management officials attended and participated in the deliberations of the workshop;

(c) "Management of public expenditure planning: Estimates preparation and expenditure control", organized in collaboration with the National Institute of Public Administration, in Lusaka from 20 to 31 August 1990. Twenty-two participants attended the workshop.

158. The constraints on programme performance were basically budgetary in nature.

Science and technology

159. Upon request, the secretariat provided assistance to the Uganda Institution of Professional Engineers through participation in the conference on application and innovation of technology in Africa, held in Kampala from 21 to 27 September 1990 and presented a paper on science and technology policies in Africa. Consultations were also held with the interim secretariat of the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology and advice given on possible measures to launch the various programmes and activities envisaged by the new institution which has replaced the National Research Council.

160. The secretariat provided technical support to the African Regional Centre for Technology (ARCT) and the African Regional Organization for Standardization (ARSO). In this regard, the secretariat organized and serviced a joint steering committee meeting in Dakar on 10 and 11 January 1991 which reviewed progress in the implementation of the UNDP project RAF/87/068 and recommended a project implementation plan for the ensuing period. A similar activity was undertaken for ARSO during the Tripartite Review Meeting, held in Nairobi from 4 to 6 March 1991 for the UNDP project RAF/87/065.

161. The secretariat assisted with activities of the relevant subsidiary organs of the Commission. It organized the second meeting of the West Africa Working Group in Niamey from 21 to 23 March 1991. The meeting elaborated a number of subregional projects for submission to funding agencies and donor organizations. The various subregional projects prepared by the Working Groups of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology for Development (IGCESTD) were submitted to donor and funding agencies. A number of responses have been received and the Islamic Foundation for Science,

Technology and Development (IFSTAD) expressed interest in some of the projects. The secretariat undertook a mission to IFSTAD from 25 to 28 March 1991 to finalize arrangements for the execution of the projects.

162. In the area of manpower for science and technology development, the secretariat collaborated with ARCT in organizing and servicing a training seminar on the management of science and technology, in Mauritius, from 29 May to 2 June 1990.

163. With respect to the mobilization and effective utilization of local institutions and capabilities, the secretariat published a report on performance review of science and technology policy institutions in Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Nigeria and the United Republic of Tanzania. The report will be submitted to the biennial meeting of the IGCESTD in November 1991. The secretariat is undertaking a similar review in six countries, viz.: the Gambia, Madagascar, Malawi, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Zambia. In this regard, the secretariat undertook missions to Madagascar (3 to 6 October 1990), Zimbabwe (8 to 11 October 1990) and Sierra Leone (16 to 19 March 1991) to review the modalities of the study with the researchers and provide advice on the country reports. The secretariat undertook a study on the potential and consequences of new and emerging technologies with respect to new materials and products having special relevance to Africa's minerals, building and construction materials. A similar study is underway focusing on renewable raw materials of animal and plant origin. In a related activity, the secretariat participated in a regional workshop on new and traditional materials for development, in Abidjan, from 8 to 12 April 1991, and submitted two papers, one on the Impact of technological factors on African commodities and possible policy options and the other on the Development of endogenous capacity in new materials technology.

164. The secretariat prepared a paper on Endogenous capacity building in science and technology in the African region for consideration by the IGCESTD. Various organizations, e.g., UNIDO, FAO, ILO, WIPO, etc., have assisted the secretariat by providing technical documentation and by participating in the meetings of the Working Groups of the IGCESTD. The secretariat collaborated with the OAU in the follow-up to the activities of the Working Groups and through participation in the eighth session of the Scientific Council for Africa, held in Lome from 28 May to 1 June 1990.

Social development

165. In the area of social policy planning and research, the secretariat undertook a critical assessment of social development as reflected in the development plans of selected African countries. The analysis covered such areas of social policy and social development as employment, education, population issues, health, women, youth, environment, family and refugees.

166. A study of the status of social development in Africa at the end of the 1980s and the prospects for the 1990s further described the socio-economic crisis that engulfed Africa in the 1980s, and made recommendations for the 1990s.

167. An additional study was undertaken on the state of social development in Africa and the policy challenges for the 1990s. The study made a number of specific recommendations with respect to policies and strategies that ECA member States might adopt in order to speed up the rate of social development in the region.

168. Support was extended to the African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development (ACARTSOD) on the review of the activities of the Centre and recommendations to be made to the ACARTSOD Board of Governors.

169. The secretariat completed a report on the economic and social situation of urban youth which shed light on the actual situation of young people in the towns, how they lived and the traumas they experienced. A study was also completed on the role and effectiveness of national youth organizations in mobilizing young people in development. The objective of the study was to determine, after analyzing a number of factors,

whether youth organizations were playing an effective role in mobilizing young people for development and to propose the necessary remedial measures. A study on policies and programmes concerning the youth as reflected in national development plans and policies is currently being conducted. The purpose of the study is to ascertain the extent to which national development policies and plans do actually incorporate government concerns with youth.

170. In the area of crime prevention and the treatment of offenders, the secretariat completed a study on administration of juvenile justice in selected African countries: Proposals for reform and alternatives, which showed how the judicial system worked in certain countries. The secretariat continued its support for the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI).

171. Preparatory work was begun on two studies entitled Survey of existing national policies and measures in crime prevention and criminal justice with a view to evaluating their effectiveness in the light of socio-economic and cultural changes and The impact of crime on the social and economic development of African countries.

172. As part of its activities in aid of the disabled, the secretariat published the journal "Equal Time" which promotes the objectives of the United Nations Decade for the Disabled.

173. With regard to aging, the secretariat served as the focal point for various studies conducted on the situation of the elderly. In February 1991, the secretariat was represented at the inter-agency meeting on aging held in Vienna. The secretariat participated in the thirty-second meeting of the Social Development Commission also held in Vienna from 11 to 21 February 1991. A report on the secretariat's current and future activities in social development was submitted to the Commission.

African Training and Research Centre for Women (ATRCW)

174. During the period under review, ATRCW provided advisory services to four countries, namely Angola, Kenya, Namibia and Zimbabwe on the best way of including women's concerns in national development plans. In the same context, advice was provided to IDEP on incorporating a women's component in the work programme of the Institute so as to ensure that such issues were adequately reflected in the decision-making process.

175. Efforts to secure women's access to credit were made as part of an experimental project carried out in Ethiopia, Rwanda and Uganda. The pilot projects demonstrated how women could best be served by financial institutions. A first appraisal of the experiment, carried out in November 1990, revealed that the approach advocated by the project was efficient and relevant to the training and credit needs of women, particularly those in the low-income category. The secretariat is mobilizing resources for operationalization of the approach and replication of the experience in other countries.

176. Another major concern has been to improve production and management conditions for women operators in the informal sector. Again, this was carried out in four pilot countries, namely Burkina Faso, the Congo, the Gambia and Zambia where national seminars were organized in September and October 1991. During those seminars, high-level officers and decision-makers reviewed case studies undertaken earlier on the policy, training and statistics aspects in the informal sector and proposed plans of action and guidelines on how to improve women's activities in the sector. Implemented in collaboration with the OAU, ILO, INSTRAW, UNSO and UNDP, the project was evaluated in November 1990 and its funding was recommended under the UNDP Fifth Programming Cycle.

177. The secretariat continue to disseminate information on women in development. An annotated bibliography on women in development was published, as was the newsletter "ATRCW Update". Efforts were also made to update the roster of African women experts, a major tool in the promotion of technical cooperation among developing countries.

Statistics

178. Major projects of the secretariat included the Statistical Development Programme for Africa (SDPA) and the Regional Advisory Services in Demographic Statistics (RASDS). Under the SDPA, 10 missions to nine African countries/training centres were undertaken during the period under review in the area of statistical training; 21 missions to 19 countries on household surveys; 17 missions to 13 countries in the field of national accounts and one mission each on statistical organization and statistical data base development. Within the framework of the RASDS, 51 missions to 30 African countries were undertaken in the field of census taking, census cartography, sampling, data processing, civil registration and vital statistics collection.

179. The following publications were issued:

(a) African Statistical Yearbook, 1987 and 1988/1989;

(b) African Socio-economic Indicators, 1987 and 1988;

(c) Foreign Trade Statistics for Africa, Series A, Nos. 31, 32 and 33 (Direction of trade) and Series C, Nos. 8, 9, and 10 (Summary Tables);

(d) Directory of African Statisticians, 1990;

(e) STPA News, Nos. 19 and 20;

(f) Statistical Newsletter, Nos. 73 and 74;

(g) The Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s, which was drawn up by the sixth session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers and adopted by the sixteenth meeting of the African Ministers responsible for economic development and planning in Tripoli in May 1990.

180. Computer printouts on demographic and social statistics, environment statistics, foreign trade statistics, national accounts, industrial statistics, price and other statistics were produced for all ECA member States and sent to their national statistical offices.

181. The following meetings were held:

(a) Intergovernmental seminar on the review of the Untied Nations System of National Accounts (SNA), Addis Ababa, 16-25 July 1990;

(b) Training seminar on international trade statistics (English-speaking African countries) Addis Ababa, 26 November - 5 December 1990;

(c) Seminar for trainers involved in middle level statistical training (French- and Portuguese-speaking African countries) Addis Ababa, 10-14 December 1990;

(d) Inter-agency meeting on cooperation for statistical development in Africa in the 1990s, Addis Ababa, 18-19 December 1990.

182. Constraints on programme performance included the increasing demands for adequate, reliable, up-to-date and relevant quantitative information for the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of policy reforms and development programmes; the fact that in many countries of the region the high turnover of statistical personnel who leave the national statistical services, after years of training and acquisition of considerable practical experience, to join other sectors; the lack of qualified computer specialists and inadequate facilities

for data processing and storage; and the need to further strengthen cooperation between data producers and data users.

183. Achievements have included: expansion in the range of statistical data produced, increased cooperation between data producers and data users, and increases in the number of trained statistical personnel. The statistics produced have improved to some extent in terms of quality, timeliness and relevance to national development programmes. The data processing situation has improved, but many countries of the region lack efficient hardware and software. There have been further developments in the subregional and regional statistical data bases enabling meaningful comparisons of national and international data. Some progress is being made in the building up of national capacity and self-reliance.

Transport communications and tourism

184. In the field of general and multimodal transport, a technical publication on guidelines for effective planning, management and operations of container terminals was prepared and submitted to maritime transport agencies dealing with planning and management of container transport and container terminals (TRANSCOM/376, May 1990).

185. A second technical publication was prepared on issues and measures for the harmonization and coordination of the various transport modes in Africa. It is envisaged that the document will be found useful by African Governments in the planning of intermodal transport using the various transport corridors (TRANSCOM/444, November 1990).

186. Six subregional workshops and one regional workshop were conducted for sub-Saharan African countries in the field of strengthening human resources management capabilities within the transport and communications sectors in Africa.

187. In the field of maritime transport, inland water transport and ports, the secretariat prepared the following reports and technical publications:

(a) Report to the North African Transport Committee on the implementation of the transport programme for the subregion (ECA/TRANS/MULPOC/TANG/90/8);

(b) Three reports to three African subregional port management associations on steps to be taken to promote efficient utilization of cargo handling equipment in Africa (TRANSCOM/426, 445 and 446);

(c) Technical publication: Guidelines on improved documentation, procedures and formalities for facilitating port traffic flow in Africa (TRANSCOM/447);

(d) Guidelines on the modernization, design and building of major and secondary inland water port infrastructures in Africa (TRANSCOM/439);

(e) Support to UNTACDA II programme preparation in the fields of maritime transport, inland water transport, multimodal transport and ports;

(f) Study on ways and means of improved rail traffic of the Republic of Cameroon (TRANSOM/440).

188. In the field of road transport, the following reports were prepared:

(a) Status of the substandard sections of the trans-African highways system;

(b) Economic evaluation for the substandard sections of the Lagos-Mombasa Trans-African Highway;

(c) Completion of inter-country links;

(d) Facilitation of international road transport in Africa;

(e) Proposals for an African Highway Association;

(f) Road safety situation in Africa.

189. The reports were used in the development of the roads and road transport strategy document for UNTACDA II.

190. Pursuant to resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.89/79 of the seventh meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning requesting the setting up of a single bureau for all Trans-African Highway Authorities and Coordinating Committees, the secretariat proposed a structure for the bureau, an indicative programme, and a scale of assessment of financial contributions to be paid by member States to fund the activities of the bureau.

191. Following the second African Road Safety Congress held in Addis Ababa in 1989, the following manuals have been published:

(a) Manual for heavy vehicle drivers, prepared in collaboration with the Overseas Unit of the Transport and Road Research Laboratory of the United Kingdom;

(b) Manual on low-cost engineering countermeasures for accident prevention.

192. As part of its cooperation with OECD countries in implementation of the UNTACDA II programme, the secretariat took part in the preparation of a coordinated research programme on pedestrian safety in developing countries.

193. Under the joint ECA/World Bank Sub-Saharan Africa Transport Programme (SSATP), the secretariat participated in the meeting of the coordinating committee on the implementation of phase III of the road maintenance initiative and the preparation of household surveys under the rural travel and transport component.

194. The two major activities undertaken in the field of railway management and maintenance operations in Africa were:

(a) Report to the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning on the promotion of an efficient management and administration system for the maintenance and repair of railway tracks (TRANSCOM/381);

(b) Technical assistance to the secretariat of the Union of African Railways for drafting and presenting the railway working group subsectoral programme for UNTACDA II (TRANSOM/445 and 458).

195. The secretariat undertook the following activities in air transport:

(a) Technical publication on capacities and operations of African airlines;

(b) Reports to AFRAA on ECA activities on air transport and ways and means to improve the management of African airlines;

(c) Report to the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning on the progress of the Yamoussoukro Declaration implementation;

(d) Four studies on finding ways and means of successfully implementing in the four African subregions the Yamoussoukro Declaration on a New African Air Transport Policy. Each subregional working group met to consider the study and agreed on areas and levels of cooperation among the operators concerned.

196. During the period under review, the following activities were undertaken in the field of tourism:

(a) Advisory services mission to Guinea to evaluate tourism development prospects in line with the new national policy and to prepare documents for structuring the tourism sector. Pursuant to the field mission, a series of legal texts were prepared and sent to the Government in addition to the report itself (mission undertaken in June 1990);

(b) Advisory services mission to Mali to help its Government prepare for the negotiation of a new contract for the management of the Hôtel de l'Amitié; to prepare a document for renovation of the hotels owned by the Office des relais touristiques (namely, Hôtel de l'Amitié, Relais touristique le Kanaga, Mopti, and Relais touristique Azalay, Timbuktu); and to prepare a document for the restructuring of the Office des relais touristiques including a programme of action to improve the performance of the Office. For this intervention, the secretariat obtained the assistance of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations.

197. The secretariat collaborated with the OAU in the preparation of the treaty for the establishment of the African Economic Community, including the drafting of the articles on tourism to be included in the treaty. The secretariat and the OAU are jointly conducting a programme to celebrate the Year of African Tourism, which includes organization of meetings and an African Tourism Fair.

198. Publications on tourism facilitation in Africa, guidelines for monitoring management of small- and medium-size hotels and on the promotion and management of tourism circuits were prepared.

199. In the field of communications, the secretariat provided an expert to prepare strategies and plans for the development of rural telecommunications for Equatorial Guinea and Guinea. The secretariat also provided an expert to Chad to develop its mail routeing plan.

200. As member of the coordinating committee, including the OAU, ADB, ITU and PATU, the secretariat continued to provide technical support to the development and management of the Pan-African Telecommunications (PANAFTEL) network.

201. As a member of the Inter-agency Coordinating Committee for the Regional African Satellite Communications System (RASCOM), the secretariat continued to provide an expert to assist with the work of the supervising agency and the technical committee for the implementation of the project, which was completed in February 1991.

202. The following technical publications and reports were prepared:

(a) Telecommunications and signalling on African railways (E/ECA/CMU/42, November 1990);

(b) Approaches and options for solving the problems encountered by postal administrations of the African land-locked countries (E/ECA/CMU/44, October 1990);

(c) Reports on the development and utilization of the PANAFTEL network and progress on the RASCOM feasibility study (E/ECA/CMU/45, parts A and B, December 1990) for the meetings of the Tangier-based MULPOC policy organs;

(d) Report on the development and management of human resources for telecommunications (E/ECA/CMU/40, October 1990) for the eighth joint ECOWAS/PANAFTEL meeting, Lagos from 9 to 12 October 1990;

(e) Report on ECA activities for the development of rural telecommunication networks (E/ECA/CMU/41, October 1990) for the twenty-fourth Annual Regional Telecommunications Conference (ARTC/PANAFTEL), Maseru from 24 October to 7 November 1990;

(f) Paper prepared on strategies for effective national and regional telecommunications development (E/ECA/CMU/47, December 1990) for Africa Telecom 90 Forum and the African Telecommunications Development Conference, Harare from 6 to 11 December 1990.

203. The secretariat organized the special Conference of Ministers responsible for Telecommunications, in Abuja from 28 January to 4 February 1990 to consider the final report on the RASCOM feasibility study. The Conference approved the findings of the study, and called on African Governments to proceed with the implementation phase of the project.

204. A number of problems still prevail. Organizational and policy constraints also continue to limit the impact of the secretariat's work. The completion of the missing links, the utilization and management of the PANAFTEL network, and the implementation of the RASCOM project remain high on the order of priorities.

C. Relations with other United Nations programmes

205. As in the past, the secretariat continued to maintain close relationships with other agencies of the United Nations system.

206. Support was provided to the World Health Organization (WHO/AFRO) through participation in the meeting of the African Advisory Committee on Health Development (AACHD), which reviewed African health development strategies and plans of action in the region, health development policies and the WHO programme of work in the African region.

207. PADIS' major United Nations contacts during this period were with UNESCO and the Advisory Council on the Coordination of Information Systems (ACCIS). PADIS participated in the ECA/UNESCO Joint Concertation meeting, held in Dakar from 26 to 28 November 1990. It participated subsequently in ECA meetings to coordinate activities with UNESCO. PADIS has been the ECA focal point for ACCIS, contributing information to ACCIS data bases.

208. The secretariat collaborated with UNDP in the formulation and implementation of pilot projects for the fabrication of soil stabilized blocks, lime and fibre concrete roofing tiles in four selected African countries. The sixth meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment considered the funding arrangement of this project and recommended that ECA should prepare, in consultation with UNIDO, the OAU, UNDP, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and other relevant organizations, a regional project for the development of building material industries in Africa within the programme for the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA), to be included in the UNDP Fifth Programming Cycle (1992-1996) for funding.

209. In collaboration with UNDP and the Government of the USSR, the secretariat organized a seminar and study tour on urban development (Moscow and Odessa, USSR, 8-18 October 1990). Participants from six African countries attended the seminar and study tour.

210. The secretariat benefitted from assistance from UNCTAD for the study on iron ore production in Africa and its future.

211. The secretariat provided support to the United Nations Department of Technical Cooperation for Development (DTCD) by undertaking a fact-finding and data collection mission on behalf of DTCD to three African countries, namely Côte d'Ivoire, Morocco and Senegal.

212. The secretariat participated in the eleventh session of the ACC inter-secretariat group on water held at Geneva, from 3 TO 5 October 1990, at which a number of issues including the strategy for the implementation of MPAP in the 1990s and beyond and other matters related to the IDWSSD; the preparatory work for the United Nations Conference of Environment and Development; and such other questions of common interest to the United Nations system of organizations were discussed. The secretariat submitted to the meeting a paper highlighting some important aspects and new developments that have implications on the future strategy for the 1990s.

213. The secretariat contributed to the Secretary-General's report on coordination of outer space activities within the United Nations system. The report covered the secretariat's activities, including those of its sponsored institutions, in the fields of remote sensing, environment and telecommunications in Africa for the period 1989-1990 and immediate future years. The secretariat was represented at the United Nations Inter-Agency meeting in Rome in September 1990 which reviewed progress made in the implementation of recommendations of UNISPACE-82. At the meeting, the agencies present reiterated an earlier appeal for support to be given to the ECA secretariat in order for it to develop its remote sensing programme.

214. In the area of promotion of cooperation in science and technology, the secretariat collaborated with the United Nations Centre for Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD) in New York by contributing a paper on evironmentally sound technology assessment for the ATAS Bulletin due for publication in 1991.

215. The secretariat collaborated with UNESCO through its participation in a regional review meeting on programme assessment of education/research in basic sciences and technology in Africa, held in Nairobi from 24 to 26 September 1990. The meeting recommended the priority areas for technical assistance during the UNDP Fifth Programming Cycle. The secretariat also participated in a Joint ECA/UNESCO Concertation Meeting in Dakar on 26 and 27 November 1990 at which the two secretariats agreed on specific areas of collaboration in science and technology, education and communication.

216. The Statistical Development Programme for Africa continues to benefit from collaboration with other international organizations, including United Nations agencies. Relevant statistical data on computer printouts, diskettes and tapes are regularly exchanged between the secretariat and the United Nations Statistical Office, FAO, UNIDO, UNEP, WTO and the World Bank.

217. In addition, joint country missions have been fielded and there has been collaboration and assistance in the organization of technical meetings, seminars and workshops, i.e., in the preparation of background documents and conduct of meetings. The inter-agency meeting on cooperation for statistical development in Africa in the 1990s, held in Addis Ababa in December 1990, was attended by representatives from the Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT), the United Nations Statistical Office, the World Bank, ILO, UNFPA and UNDP. UNDP is funding the SDPA programme and UNFPA the RASDS.

218. There was collaboration with UNDP, ILO, UNCTAD, IMO, ITU, ICAO and the World Bank in the preparation of case studies, modal reports and the conduct of the subregional workshops on human resources management capabilities within the transport and communications sector.

219. The secretariat also collaborated with WTO in the technical support to the twenty-first meeting of the African Commission of the WTO in Lomé in May 1990, and in the organization of the meeting of the Inter-agency Coordinating Committee for the Celebration of the Year of African Tourism, held in Addis Ababa in October 1990.

220. In the field of communications, the secretariat continued its collaboration with ITU and UNESCO in the implementation of the PANAFTEL network and the RASCOM project. It also collaborated with UPU in the development of African postal services.

CHAPTER III

TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION AND SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS

A. Attendance and organization of work

221. The twenty-sixth session of the Commission/seventeenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers responsible for economic development and planning was held at Addis Ababa, People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (PDRE), from 9 to 13 May 1991. The meeting was formally opened by Comrade Yusuf Ahmed, Vice-President of the Council of State of the PDRE. The Secretary-General of the United Nations sent a message which was read to the Conference. Statements were also delivered at the opening ceremony by Mr. Adebayo Adedeji, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, Ambassador B. N. Dede, Assistant Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and by Honourable Ommar el Montassar, Secretary-General of the People's Secretariat of Economic Planning of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya whose country had been Chairman of the twenty-fifth session of the Commission. Honourable Fernando França Van-Dunem, Minister of Planning of Angola read out a vote of thanks on behalf of participants.

222. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following States members of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, the Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

223. Observers from the following States Members of the United Nations were present: Afghanistan, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Finland, France, Germany, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom, Yugoslavia and Venezuela. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Holy See were also represented by observers.

224. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented: Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation (DIEC), Regional Commissions New York Office (REGCOMM), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), International Labour Organisation (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Bank, International Telecommunication Union (ITU), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS/HABITAT), World Food Council (WFC), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), United Nations Centre for Human Rights (UNCHR), United Nations University (UNU) and United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO).

225. The Organization of African Unity (OAU) was represented.

226. Observers were present from the following intergovernmental organizations: African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC), African Development Bank (ADB), African Institute for Higher Technical Training and Research (AIHTTR), African Regional Centre for Technology (ARCT), African Regional Organization for Standardization (ARSO), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), European Economic Community (EEC), African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP), Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL), Eastern and Southern African Management Institute (ESAMI), Eastern and Southern African Mineral Resources Development Centre (ESAMRDC), Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques (IFORD), Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and

Development (IGADD), Islamic Development Bank (IDB), Organization of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU), Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States (PTA), Regional Centre for Training in Aerospace Surveys (RECTAS), Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS) and Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC).

227. Observers were also present from the following non-governmental organizations: Commonwealth Secretariat, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Lutheran World Federation.

228. The Conference unanimously elected the following officers:

Chairman: Mr. John Chizu (Zambia)
First Vice-Chairman: Mr. Anthony Ikhazobor (Nigeria)
Second Vice-Chairman: Mr. S. Rusuku (Burundi)
Rapporteur: Mr. Rachidi el Rhezouani (Morocco)

B. Agenda

229. On 9 May 1991, the Conference adopted the following agenda:

Conference theme: Africa in the 1990s: Meeting the challenges

1. Opening of the meeting.

2. One minute of silent prayer or meditation.

3. Election of officers.

4. Adoption of the agenda.

5. General debate on: Preliminary review of Africa's economic and social performance in 1990 and prospects for 1991, and transformation, recovery and adjustment

    (a) Economic Report on Africa 1991;

    (b) The Gulf crisis and African economies;

    (c) Lagos Plan of Action: Ten years after:

    - Decennial review and appraisal of the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos;

    (d) United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UN-PAAERD):

    - Final review and appraisal of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 (UN-PAAERD);

    (e) Beyond recovery and towards transformation: African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-economic Recovery and Transformation (AAF-SAP):

        (i) Progress report on follow-up on AAF-SAP;

        (ii) Revitalization of long-term planning for structural transformation;

- (iii) Mechanisms for implementing and monitoring the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation; public participation in development planning and management;
- (iv) Impact of structural adjustment programmes on population;
- (v) Preparations for the third African Population Conference.

6. Consideration of the report and recommendations of the twelfth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole on:

(a) Issues, studies and reports on regional cooperation for development in Africa:

- (i) Reorganization of the MULPOCs: Follow-up on the report of the evaluation mission to review the achievements of the MULPOCs with a view to strengthening them and making them more effective;
- (ii) Progress report on the strengthening of subregional economic integration process and the establishment of the African Economic Community;
- (iii) Industrial development in Africa:
  - Progress report on the preparation of the programme for the United Nations second Industrial Development Decade for Africa;
- (iv) Transport and communications in Africa:
  - Programme for the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa;
- (v) Natural resources and environment in Africa:
  - a. Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan (MPAP) including the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade in Africa (1981-1990) and perspectives for the 1990s;
  - b. Report on the preparations in Africa for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992;
- (vi) Social development and humanitarian affairs:
  - a. The state of social development in Africa and the policy challenges for the 1990s;
  - b. Changing socio-economic conditions of women in Africa in the context of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women;
- (vii) Operational activities:
  - Report on ECA-executed technical cooperation projects;

(b) Issues from subsidiary organs and sectoral bodies of the Commission calling for action by the Conference of Ministers;

(c) Statutory issues:

  (i) Follow-up action on relevant resolutions adopted by the twenty-fifth session of the Commission and decisions adopted by the General Assembly and ECOSOC that are of interest to Africa:

    a. Follow-up action on relevant resolutions adopted by the twenty-fifth session of the Commission/sixteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers;

    b. Resolutions adopted by ECOSOC at its second regular session of 1990 and by the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session in the economic and social sectors that are of interest to Africa;

  (ii) Staff and administrative questions;

(d) Programme of work and priorities of the Commission:

  (i) Proposed programme of work and priorities for the 1992-1993 biennium;

  (ii) ECA advisory services: The challenges for the 1990s;

(e) Proposal for a regional programme for the placement of African experts;

(f) Orientation paper for UNDP Fifth Inter-country Programme for Africa.

7. Pledging Conference for the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD):

(a) Progress report on the implementation of UNTFAD-funded projects, 1990-1991;

(b) Proposals for utilization of UNTFAD resources during the period 1992-1993.

8. Any other business.

9. Date and venue and other matters related to the twenty-seventh session of the Commission/eighteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers.

10. Consideration and adoption of the report and resolutions of the meeting.

11. Closure of the meeting.

C. Account of proceedings

Opening addresses

230. Comrade Yusuf Ahmed, Vice-President of the Council of State of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, welcomed participants to Addis Ababa. The task before the Conference, he said, was a crucial one, requiring as it did an objective evaluation of the outcome and impact of the major socio-economic and structural adjustment programmes undertaken by African countries during the past decade, as well as the formulation of appropriate strategies for the 1990s.

231. The forthcoming Final Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of UN-PAAERD by the General Assembly provided a unique opportunity for a frank and objective assessment of the achievements of the programme and the implications of the results for future action in support of Africa. Ethiopia was convinced that, on the whole, Africa had made commendable efforts to implement policy reforms and structural adjustment programmes, by elaborating AAF-SAP and also by responding positively to the priority sectors of UN-PAAERD. However, the international environment remained unfavourable and the participation of the international community had been far from satisfactory. Not only had additional resource flows not been forthcoming, but also total net resource flows to Africa had declined in real terms during the late 1980s. Official development assistance (ODA) had stagnated at around $US 16 billion during the same period, while private flows had decreased sharply.

232. It was to be hoped that the prevailing recession, the global financial squeeze, Eastern European needs and the oil crisis would not overshadow the basic requirements of Africa, or exacerbate the already terrible plight of the continent. Without an improvement in the external environment and adequate external resources, Africa could not be expected to overcome the difficult problems of growth and achieve sustained development. While attempts had been made to improve the quality and modality of assistance and cooperation to support policy reforms and to ease debt burdens, much more remained to be done. The emerging consensus on appropriate developmental approaches needed to be translated into operational reality reflecting Africa's own strategies as enunciated in AAF-SAP.

233. The economic and social conditions in Africa at the dawn of the 1990s depicted a situation which called for effective strategies to deal with the underlying root causes in a decisive and fundamental manner. The attainment of self-sustained development which was human-centred and aimed at the integration of the economies of the region required the adoption of perspective plans based on a firm and legitimate political will, a rational and methodical process and reliable economic policy instruments at the national, subregional and regional levels.

234. The genuine transformation of African economies would not be possible without effective regional and subregional economic cooperation and integration. The planning process should therefore be extended from the national to the subregional level, where responsibilities for issues having trans-boundary dimensions could be shared. The international community should support the pursuit of those objectives.

235. His own country had been affected adversely by the unfavourable international environment and the declining flows of foreign assistance and investment. The vulnerability of its economy had been further increased by a series of successive droughts, external aggressions and internal strife. Ethiopia's new economic policy had, therefore, centred on resolving the prevailing economic problems with special emphasis on the realization of food self-sufficiency, promotion of economic growth, reduction of poverty and improving the environment. Even more significant were the serious efforts under way to implement the recent peace resolutions of the National Shengo, which were aimed at achieving lasting peace and national reconciliation.

236. In his message to the session, the Secretary-General of the United Nations referred to the remarkable trends towards greater openness, the possibilities for the free expression of the popular will, and the enhanced cooperation between nations which the world had witnessed during the past few years. That was especially the case on the European continent, which had provided the international community with a unique opportunity to pursue the design for peace which the United Nations had been established to realize.

237. The underlying principles and objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos, UN-PAAERD, AAF-SAP and the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation were crucial for the rapid recovery and transformation of the African economies. Those policy frameworks had been reinforced by recently enacted international instruments such as the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, and in particular the Revitalization of Growth in Developing Countries; the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade; and the Paris

Declaration and Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries. Those should all serve as important guide-posts for concerted action in the years ahead.

238. He stated that the emergence of a united, multiracial and democratic South Africa and its eventual integration into both the international community of nations and the mainstream of Africa's political, economic and social life would mean the realization of a long-standing objective of the United Nations. That development went to the root of the most fundamental principles of the Charter, namely self-determination of peoples, respect for human rights, justice, and stability in international relations. For Africa, it could only enhance the environment for economic cooperation and integration. He had no doubt that the post-UN-PAAERD period would see Africa more resolute in its determination to pursue self-reliant, self-sustaining growth and development, and that would occur within the framework of a human-centred strategy, and a democratized and stable setting.

239. The continuing crisis of external indebtedness made it more urgent than ever to arrive at a consensus on a debt strategy that included substantial debt and debt-servicing reductions, and covered a wider range of credits and creditors. There were three central elements for a solution. Those were a clear commitment to strong domestic policies, a supportive external environment, and concerted action by governments, private creditors and multilateral institutions. Such a strategy would be firmly supported by the United Nations. He felt encouraged by the resumption of technical discussions in the Uruguay Round, and looked forward to the early conclusion of its negotiations. The outcome must take into account the interest and concerns of the developing countries, especially regarding increased access to traditional and potential markets. The instability and continued depression of prices for commodities was another equally crucial question that must be addressed, if an enabling environment for the revitalization of growth in the developing countries was to be created.

240. To meet its challenges, Africa needed increased attention and support from the international community. Africa also needed peace and political stability: civil strife, disorder and international disputes were not conducive to concerted action for development. Insecurity at the national level had repercussions beyond national borders, as had been the case with African refugees, environmental disasters and drug trafficking. Africa needed to evolve its own arrangements for security, stability, cooperation and development. He therefore looked forward with considerable interest to the outcome of the forthcoming Kampala Conference on Stability, Security, Cooperation and Development.

241. He finally paid tribute to the Executive Secretary who had decided to leave the United Nations service at the end of July 1991. He thanked Professor Adedeji for his remarkable leadership qualities as head of ECA during a period which had been perhaps the most difficult in the socio-economic history of Africa. Professor Adedeji would be leaving behind a mature institution which had considerable weight not only in general public policy in Africa, but also in decision-making at the international level. He hoped that Professor Adedeji would continue to lend his remarkable qualities of foresight, intelligence and devotion to the service of Africa.

242. The Executive Secretary expressed thanks to the Government and people of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for its continued support to ECA. He said that, as with all things in private life or in public office, the time had come for him to relinquish his responsibilities as Executive Secretary of the Commission. As he did so, his conviction still remained that the 1990s would be the decade of challenge for Africa. It would be the time to ameliorate the plight of the people, to reverse the decay that had set in during the preceding decade, to move from a state of hopelessness and despair to one of growing optimism and endogenous socio-economic renewal, to abandon the programmes and policies that marginalized people, and to pursue vigorously a human-centred development strategy and programmes that put the people first, while the governments yielded space to their people and created the enabling environment to promote initiative and enterprise.

243. The socio-economic and political ills that were so overwhelming in the 1980s were still very much present in the disintegration of productive and infrastructural facilities, repeated cycles of drought,

environmental degradation and vulnerability to natural disaster, the persistent threat of hunger, the spread of civil wars and internal strife in many African countries, and the growing number of least developed countries. The commodity problem still remained unresolved, and the excruciating debt burden still weighed heavily on African economies. The potential impact of debt-relief measures initiated thus far had been quickly neutralized by a more than proportionate reduction in earnings from export commodities. In such circumstances, Africa must return to the issue of a development policy agenda in the 1990s, to ensure that the mistakes of the 1980s were not repeated.

244. Africa's strong bias in favour of a human-centred development paradigm - the very pillar around which AAF-SAP was built - held tremendous potential to influence positively its development prospects in the 1990s. If properly harnessed, the wind of pro-democracy and popular participation currently blowing throughout the continent would sooner or later herald the birth of a new Africa where democracy, public accountability, the political and economic empowerment of the people, and equity and justice prevailed. The determined efforts being made to address the problem of internal civil strife and war in some countries must be encouraged and supported, for democracy, development and transformation could not flourish in societies and countries that were strife-ridden or constantly in a state of war. It was also to be hoped that the process that had already begun for the establishment of a genuinely democratic, majority-ruled Republic of South Africa proved irreversible, and that South Africa would emerge to take its place in ECA and the OAU. The integration of the Republic of South Africa into the African regional economy would affect development not only in Southern Africa but also throughout the continent.

245. The Executive Secretary stated that, given the global political and economic climate, it could not be expected that a repetition of UN-PAAERD, no matter how modified, would yield results different from those of the previous Programme of Action. If anything, it might exacerbate the marginalization of Africa, by removing it as a basic issue from current global concerns, and treating it as an ad hoc problem. It would be a political mistake if Africa were to be relegated to the pursuit of yet another programme which led to nothing.

246. The first issue which should be on the development policy agenda for the 1990s was a reaffirmation of the continuing relevance and validity of Africa's continental blueprints. That must be backed by a determination to operationalize them and pursue their basic strategies, objectives and priorities in the achievement of socio-economic recovery and transformation. The second should be the subordination of all policy instruments, including adjustment measures, to long-term development and transformation.

247. The third issue should be the development of an internal capacity and capability to respond to change and to external shocks. It was more than ever clear that the speed of economic recovery and transformation in the African countries would depend on how successful African Governments became in removing the rigidities of the African economies, and how well they mastered the strategy of managing their domestic economies, and their economic relations - monetary, trade and financial - with the rest of the world.

248. The fourth issue should be how Africa could achieve total and complete congruence between its stated goals and priorities, and how it allocated and utilized its own resources. The fifth was the need for Africa to deal squarely in the 1990s with the question of human resources development in a holistic manner. At the centre of the African socio-economic drama lay the human dialectic, in which people, the mentors of the processes of change and transformation, became the beneficiaries of those processes.

249. The sixth was that economic cooperation and integration between African countries must become an integral part of domestic national policy. In no other area of endeavour - whether in the internalization of the development process or international trade negotiations, debt policy, or adjustment with transformation would progress be made without regional co-operation among African countries. It was necessary for Africa to find ways and means of accelerating the process of full integration than was currently envisaged, if its countries were to strengthen ties among themselves, and enhance their ability to participate more fruitfully in the international economy.

250. The seventh issue for the agenda was the necessity for the African people to redefine their identity, their values and their aspirations. The African tradition of solidarity, cooperative spirit, self-help development and humanism, its perception of human beings as the fulcrum of development, and its sanctions on leadership as a means of ensuring accountability, had fallen into disuse and been forgotten. How to sort out those functional aspects of its cultures, values and customs, and harness them for development purposes was one of the major challenges of development economics where Africa was concerned.

251. An essential precondition for turning Africa around, and for laying the foundation for socio-economic transformation, lay in squarely addressing the many long-term constraints on the economic development of the region. Africa must make individual and collective efforts to ensure that the doomsday scenario never came to pass. Should the various points of the development policy agenda for 1990s be pursued vigorously, Africa would be propelled on the path of socio-economic recovery, and would lay the foundation for socio-economic transformation. Its second liberation would thus become a reality sooner rather than later.

252. The Executive Secretary observed that as he bade ECA and the United Nations farewell, he could truthfully say veni, vidi et servi - he had come, he had seen and he had served. The struggle must continue, the war for the economic redemption of Africa must be waged, until there was hope for the hopeless, help for the helpless and until a marginalized and excessively ridiculed continent became one of prosperity and abundance. He charged one and all to ensure, with all the resources at their command, that Africa triumphed over famine and hunger, illiteracy and backwardness, economic injustice and inequity. His own commitment to the struggle remained as firm as ever. For as long as he lived, he would fight for the second liberation of Africa - the socio-economic emancipation of the continent - for therein lay the path of honour, dignity, and hope, and a future for all its peoples.

253. The Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Cooperation of the OAU, Ambassador Brownson N. Dede, speaking on behalf of Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim, Secretary-General of the OAU, referred to the theme of the Conference as appropriate in a decade when Africa faced a plethora of internal and external challenges.

254. He recalled the report on the fundamental changes taking place in the world, their implications for Africa, and proposals for an African response which the Secretary-General of the OAU had submitted to the twenty-sixth session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU held in July 1990. He pointed to the depressing and gloomy picture of the political and socio-economic situation of the continent, and hoped that Africa's development partners, including the United Nations, would present a programme of priorities designed to enable the continent to pull itself out of that crisis. The priorities set by the African Heads of State and Government for the 1990s had been regional integration, the problem of Africa's external indebtedness, the problem of Africa's commodities, and the alarming growth in population. He referred also to the democratization of the continent's institutions and societies, and the role of popular participation in the development process.

255. He also recalled the historic declaration adopted by the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government in July 1990, by which the Heads of State had reaffirmed their determination to lay a solid foundation for self-reliant, human-centred and sustainable development. That was to achieve accelerated structural transformation of their national economies. They had pledged to create a political environment which would guarantee human rights and the observance of the rule of law, and committed themselves to further democratizing their societies and consolidating democratic institutions in their countries. They had stressed that democracy and development should go together and be mutually reinforcing. That declaration had been a spur to the rapid spread of democracy and popular participation throughout the continent.

256. The fragile democratic movements on the continent would not, however, survive if the economic and social conditions of the countries remained equally fragile. There was, therefore, the need to search for urgent solutions to the problems of regional integration and the expansion of intra-African trade, the debt problem, the collapse of commodity prices, the challenges of population and the problem of political conflicts and wars.

257. Concrete steps were being taken by the OAU, ECA and ADB, with the financial support of UNDP, to make the dream of African economic integration a reality. The treaty establishing the African Economic Community was to be signed at the Summit meeting to be held in Abuja in June 1991.

258. On behalf of the OAU, he expressed gratitude to the Executive Secretary. For nearly 16 years, Africa had the good luck of having a hard-working and dedicated son of the continent at the helm of ECA's affairs. Under Professor Adedeji, ECA had worked together with the OAU and ADB to bring the collective impact of those three important regional institutions to bear on African affairs.

259. He paid tribute to Professor Adedeji who, on retiring from United Nations service, would be missed, not only by ECA itself, but also by the OAU and ADB.

260. The representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, whose country had been Chairman of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference, said it had been a great pleasure for Libya to host the Conference of Ministers twice within a decade. He outlined the actions taken by his Government to follow up on the implementation of the various resolutions and decisions adopted by the sixteenth meeting.

261. He commended the secretariat for the very important documents that had been provided for the current meeting. The Conference theme, "Africa in the 1990s: Meeting the challenges", was very timely since Africa could not afford to lose another decade. He therefore called for concrete action based on the recommendations contained in the documents before the meeting. In conclusion, he also expressed gratitude to the Government and people of Ethiopia for their hospitality.

262. In moving a vote of thanks on behalf of the Conference, the representative of Angola underlined the significance of the various issues before the Conference, and expressed gratitude to Comrade Yusuf Ahmed, for his inspiring statement. Through him, he thanked the Government and people of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for their hospitality.

263. He also expressed regret over the imminent departure of Professor Adebayo Adedeji, whom he described as a devoted combatant for the economic liberation of Africa.

General debate on: Preliminary review of Africa's economic and social performance in 1990 and prospects for 1991, and transformation, recovery and adjustment (agenda item 5)

264. The Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly on the final review and appraisal of UN-PAAERD stated that exercise had been planned not only as an occasion for an in-depth assessment of the actions taken in the implementation of the Programme, but also for a consideration of measures needed to sustain accelerated growth and development in Africa beyond 1991.

265. The Ad hoc Committee meeting would last for ten days from 3 to 13 September 1991. It was expected to adopt a report by consensus for the consideration of the General Assembly. He urged member States to send ministerial representations to attend the general debate. His own country, Norway, would be represented by the Minister for Development Cooperation. He hoped that the final review, in endeavouring to bring out a factually correct picture, would not develop into a controversial dispute. From his view of the exercise, it should be possible for all parties to identify weaknesses, deficiencies and mistakes, and on that basis formulate concrete proposals and recommendations.

266. He saw the role of a successor to UN-PAAERD as that of a monitor and catalyst, which could give political impulse and strength to the other activities conducted within or outside Africa by governments, specialized agencies and the Bretton Woods institutions. The successor arrangement should, however, be better circumscribed and streamlined, with clearer focus on priorities and main objectives than had been the case in the original very broad programme. He considered it important for governments to be drawn more directly into a follow-up of UN-PAAERD as partners.

267. The Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights recalled the very close links between the promotion of human rights and economic and social development. This was clearly reflected in the Preamble of the United Nations Charter and in the numerous other documents adopted in Africa, including the Convention Against Apartheid, the African Charter on Human and People's Rights and the recent Charter on the Rights and Protection of the African Child.

268. An important element in the United Nations human rights programme was the fight against discrimination. Concerted action was being undertaken within the framework of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Second Decade Against Racism and Racial Discrimination, of which he, the Under-Secretary-General, was the Coordinator. It was hoped that international action together with the struggle of the people of South Africa would bring a speedy end to apartheid.

269. In its standard-setting and international implementation of human rights, the United Nations had an obvious and significant impact on the way people lived throughout the world. Machinery for the protection of human rights had recently come into operation in Africa, with the establishment of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. The Centre for Human Rights had given considerable assistance in setting up that Commission's secretariat and in publishing the African Charter. The current programme of support amounted to over $US 200,000.

270. A major step on the road towards a better understanding of the relationship between human rights and development had been taken in December 1968 with the adoption in the General Assembly of the Declaration on the Right to Development. That Declaration provided the basic framework for relating economic and social progress to the respect for human rights. It had placed people as the essential reference point for those matters. It also established the right to development as an inalienable human right and reaffirmed the duty of States and of the international community both to cooperate in ensuring development and to eliminate obstacles to development.

271. The concern for the respect of human rights in the development process and the contribution that human rights could make to successful development had been reflected in many of the recently enacted international and regional instruments for cooperation and development. The activities in the field of human rights had been increasingly focused on practical measures to strengthen national and regional institutions for the protection of human rights on the basis of the United Nations Programme of Advisory Services and Technical Assistance in the Field of Human Rights. That Programme had recently been revitalized and had adopted an action-oriented, pragmatic approach aimed at strengthening countries and institutions worldwide. Substantive assistance had in particular been given to the African Commission on Human and People's Rights under that programme and through it to several countries of Africa.

272. He concluded by saying that the Centre would be happy to organize workshops or training programmes on the national or regional basis at the request of a government or the Economic Commission for Africa and invited member States to consider requesting such assistance. He assured the Conference of the readiness and willingness of the Centre to cooperate in all areas of human rights.

273. The Secretary-General of the Organization of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU) alluded to the practical implementation of the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation which, it had been hoped, would lead to self-sustaining development and transformation in Africa. The era of suspicion, confrontation and antagonism between African Governments and national trade unions was over. Both had recognized that they were in the same boat, and must either swim together or sink together. African workers and trade unions had taken an irreversible decision to join their African Governments in the struggle for Africa's economic independence, and self-sustaining development and transformation.

274. OATUU believed that the objective of SAPs in Africa should be defined by Africa itself, and not imposed by outside sources. In the opinion of African workers and trade unions, the implementation of IMF/World Bank structural adjustment programmes by African countries had led to mass poverty, capital flight, increased debt, loss of sovereignty, hunger, malnutrition, higher unemployment, de-industrialization,

high inflation, high interest rates, and reduced expenditure on education, health and housing. Since IMF/World Bank SAPs had obviously failed, Africa should abandon their implementation forthwith. The fifth Congress of OATUU had unanimously adopted AAF-SAP, and called on the OAU and African Governments to design and implement human-centred SAPs on the basis of the Framework.

275. In the opinion of OATUU, the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation should lead to the empowerment of the African people, democracy, accountability, development and transformation in Africa. Not only should human and trade union rights in Africa be protected, but also their violation should be punished. Monitoring mechanisms on popular participation should be set up at national and regional levels in Africa. Care should be taken to ensure that multi-party democracy led to the empowerment of people and public accountability, rather than towards objectives which would divide Africans along religious, ethnic and social lines. OATUU was not in favour of military and one-party dictatorships, because they obstructed popular participation.

276. African workers and OATUU had pledged themselves to work tirelessly for the speedy establishment of the African Economic Community. His organization would also like to see trade between and among African countries increased by more than 50 per cent by the year 2000. Without economic integration, they saw no hope for the speedy self-sustaining development of any African country, no matter how richly endowed.

277. With recent events around the world having proved that economic power was superior to military might, Africa should redouble its efforts, especially in the critical areas of human resource development, and research and development. It should reduce its military expenditure by half, and spend the estimated $US 5.7 billion savings from defence on those critical areas. All African Governments, with the assistance of the OAU and ECA, should work towards meeting the basic needs of food, education, health, housing, water, electricity, communications and employment.

278. The representative of Nigeria expressed his delegation's appreciation to the people and Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. His gratitude also went to ECA for organizing the conference, and more especially to its able Executive Secretary under whose 16-year stewardship the Commission had helped Africa launch far-reaching development programmes.

279. Nigeria attached great importance to the theme of the annual conference, and believed that the ultimate survival of Africa lay in the hands of Africans themselves. Given the socio-economic and political changes that were rapidly taking place all over the world, the challenge facing Africa's survival and growth in the 1990s had become even more daunting. They had left Africa no choice but to face its problems squarely and find solutions that would lift the continent from its current state to one of sustainable growth. Nigeria also believed in the tenets of the Lagos Plan of Action as Africa's blue-print for socio-economic development, and had continued to uphold its objectives.

280. Faced with a severe downturn in its economic fortunes following the collapse of the world commodity market in the 1980s, Nigeria had adopted a structural adjustment programme whose objective was to stabilize the economy. That programme was accompanied by several additional measures that were designed to keep the programme on course while mitigating any adverse consequences. Although the country continued to prosecute necessary reforms within the adjustment programme, national plans were being used as instruments for translating government policies and programmes into action. A three-tier planning system made up of an annual budget or annual plan, a three-year rolling plan, and a perspective plan for a period of 15-20 years had been adopted.

281. In the spirit of the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation, the Government had already instituted various programmes aimed at involving a broad spectrum of the population in development planning, policy formulation and the monitoring of programmes that affected the people at the grassroots. These included (a) mass mobilization of the populace for participation in social and political affairs; (b) adoption of a Transition to Civil Rule Programme which involved grass-root political

mobilization; (c) an increase in the number of local government authorities, and enhancement of autonomy to enable them to render improved services to the people; and finally (d) establishment of people's banks and community banks, in an effort to encourage rural savings and provide credit to vulnerable groups at concessional rates.

282. Nigeria had played an active role in the growth and development of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). It had also participated in the arrangements leading to the finalization of work on the treaty that would establish the African Economic Community.

283. Nigeria remained concerned at the deteriorating socio-economic situation in Africa. Development partners must come to Africa's aid by granting more significant debt relief, and making resources available for the pursuit of growth-oriented programmes. He called on all member States to pledge resources to UNTFAD during its forthcoming Pledging Conference. He further appealed to the United Nations General Assembly to increase its funding of ECA and ECA-sponsored institutions so as to enable them to meet their increasing obligations to African countries.

284. He commended ECA for the elaborate preparations for UNTACDA II and IDDA II, as well as for the establishment of the Multidisciplinary Regional Advisory Group (ECA-MRAG). He advised ECA to give consideration within the limits of its resources to improving its mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of agreed programmes and projects.

285. The representative of Egypt expressed his thanks to the Executive Secretary, and to his Deputy, who were leaving the service of the United Nations, for their efforts and initiatives in promoting the recovery and development of African economies. He expressed his regrets that Professor Adedeji had decided to resign, and wished him every success.

286. He commended the work of TEPCOW. Referring to the theme of the Conference, he outlined his country's experience in adjustment and transformation. That had so far been fruitful in spite of the serious effects of the Gulf crisis on the Egyptian economy. Those effects had amounted to a loss of $US 27 billion. The most affected sectors had been tourism, aviation and Suez Canal shipping. Revenue losses had amounted to 40 per cent. The country had also faced the problem of providing work opportunities for about 1 million Egyptian workers who had returned from Iraq and the Gulf States.

287. He then reviewed the steps that Egypt was taking to correct economic direction, as well as corrective policies adopted in the context of a short-, medium- and long-term plan. Those policies included a move towards establishing a uniform exchange rate for the Egyptian pound, reduction of subsidies and gradual elimination of price supports, the establishment of a social fund for the protection of the poor and low income groups from the adverse effects of those reform measures, the elimination of price distortions so as to reflect market prices, the harmonization of producer prices for wheat and cotton, the phased reduction of the budget deficit over five years, privatization as well as development, modernization and reorganization of the public sector through the establishment of holding companies operations by the laws of productivity and profitability.

288. In conclusion, he affirmed that the Egyptian experience of adjustment with transformation abounded with lessons learnt since the launching of economic reform measures and the implementation of the Second Development Plan (1987-1992). Investments during the ten-year plan (1982-1992) had amounted to 130 billion Egyptian pounds, with an annual average of 13 billion Egyptian pounds. That was, by all estimates, a colossal effort made towards the achievement of a structural transformation of the Egyptian economy. It was important for Africa to learn from all the national experiences so that it could meet challenges of the 1990s and achieve adjustment with transformation.

289. The representative of Namibia expressed profound gratitude and appreciation to all member States of ECA for their sustained support and enormous sacrifices, both economic and otherwise, during Namibia's struggle for freedom and independence. After a long and protracted struggle, his country had finally taken

its rightful place among the nations of the world as a free and sovereign State and as the fifty-first member of the Commission.

290. Planning was still new in his country, and the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos were valuable blue-prints which held considerable potential for finding solutions to the main problems facing his country. Those included unemployment, inequitable income distribution, and lack of economic growth over the ten-year period of South African rule. He called upon ECA to assist his country to prepare and implement its development plans. His country's appreciation also went to UNFPA and UNDP, and a number of countries for the assistance they continued to provide.

291. He expressed the gratitude and appreciation of his country to Professor Adedeji, for his personal interest and contributions to the liberation of Namibia. His departure from the United Nations and ECA would be a great loss for Namibia.

292. The representative of Uganda underscored the importance of involving the population in their own development, and outlined the measures taken by his Government towards this end since 1986. Those had included the restructuring of the administration of the country, under which a hierarchy of peoples' committees had been set up from the village to district and national levels. The committees were responsible for initiating, implementing and managing projects of local significance, for the maintenance of completed projects, and for managing the administration and security of their areas.

293. He observed that privatization in Africa was a useful instrument in particular circumstances. In Uganda, the Government had decided to privatize most enterprises, as a means of boosting productivity and efficiency and mobilizing private resources and initiative. Public enterprises had to be able to attract efficient management and skilled labour if they were to compete with the private sector. That was the criterion which the Government had used when divesting itself of the responsibility for the running of many enterprises. He stressed that public enterprises should cease to be hybrids of government bureaucracies, and become fully fledged commercial business enterprises.

294. To a large extent, African countries had been compelled by a harsh and unfavourable international economic environment to adopt SAPs and that had nothing to do with whether or not the individual countries were pursuing comprehensive economic development plans. While AAF-SAP must remain the long-term blue-print upon which African economic transformation must be based, Africa would continue to grapple with problems of indebtedness, adverse terms of trade and other factors, which had to be handled by resorting to short-term solutions.

295. He noted that trade was an important element in African recovery and integration. Uganda endorsed in particular the measures designed to promote intra-African trade liberalization.

296. TCDC also represented a way to collective self-reliance, by supplementing technical resources for the acceleration of the growth and development of developing countries. However, technical cooperation among African countries had made limited progress due to a lack of conviction, and of national mechanisms to direct international resources in support of cooperation. TCDC projects had not gone beyond the expression of intent even with the joint commissions for technical cooperation that many African countries had established among themselves. NATCAPs provided an opportunity to prepare prioritized technical cooperation programmes that could direct external resources to programmes chosen by African countries themselves.

297. In conclusion, he expressed his Government's gratitude to Professor Adedeji. During his term of office, Professor Adedeji had been at the forefront in the battle against the economic decline of the continent. His particular concern for the under-privileged groups of the population, and his campaign for popular participation was particularly appreciated.

298. The observer for FAO commended ECA for the quality of the Economic Report on Africa. He however felt that its value as a policy tool could have been enhanced by the inclusion of information on progress in conserving the region's water resources for agricultural and other uses, and in the management of its natural resources.

299. He was pleased to note that the report acknowledged FAO's contribution to the implementation of the major African initiatives. As the secretariat's document pointed out, FAO's first major follow-up of UN-PAAERD had been the preparation of a Programme of Action for African Agriculture. That had been based on FAO's prospective study on African agriculture during the next 25 years, which had been approved in 1986 in Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire, by the African Ministers of Agriculture at the fourteenth FAO Regional Conference for Africa. The Programme had been presented to the OAU for consideration as a reference document in the preparation of a Common African Agricultural Programme (CAAP) for development within the context of the African Economic Community.

300. He congratulated the countries that had achieved the target allocation of 20 to 25 per cent of public revenue to agriculture and urged them to continue to strengthen their support to the sector. He appealed to those countries that had yet to meet the target to endeavour to do so.

301. His organization welcomed the suggestion by TEPCOW that ECA's work on the implementation and monitoring of the African Charter should be coordinated with FAO's activities on the implementation and monitoring of the Programme of Action of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, known as the "Peasants' Charter". FAO would cooperate with ECA in that respect, both directly and through the Joint ECA/FAO Agriculture Division.

302. FAO would also continue to provide, either directly or through the Joint ECA/FAO Agriculture Division, every possible support to the pursuit of Africa's subregional and regional integration goals. It was currently working with the OAU, the other food and agriculture bodies of the United Nations system, and the Joint ECA/FAO Agriculture Division on the preparation of a draft Common African Agricultural Programme designed for African agricultural development through sectoral economic integration.

303. He hoped that the final version of the draft resolution on the acceleration of the economic integration process in Africa would recognize that ECA, the OAU and ADB alone could not provide all the necessary technical assistance for the African Economic Community. The United Nations specialized agencies stood ready to offer such additional assistance as was required.

304. FAO was interested in many aspects of the industrial development of Africa. That was a means of providing forward and backward linkages with the agricultural sector. It intended to be represented at the June 1991 Conference of African Ministers of Industry in order to make a constructive contribution to the finalization of the programme of the second United Nations Industrial Development Decade for Africa. FAO looked forward to the successful implementation of the programme of the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa as an additional means of improving the agricultural production and marketing situation in the region.

305. He endorsed TEPCOW's recommendation on the commercialization of water supply operations as essential for the sustainability of water supplies and improvement in the efficiency of water use. Commercialization should be based on a thorough examination of all relevant factors, including the agricultural pricing regimes which influenced farmers' ability to purchase water for agricultural production purposes. Through its regional office for Africa, FAO had cooperated with the OAU in organizing the Pan-African Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development held in Bamako, Mali, from 23 to 30 January 1991, and was also prepared to cooperate with ECA in organizing the planned African Regional Preparatory Conference, within the limits of its mandate and resources. The International Scheme for the Conservation and Rehabilitation of African Lands adopted in Marrakech, Morocco, in July 1990 by the African Ministers of Agriculture required the support of African Ministers responsible for economic development and planning in mobilizing the necessary national, regional and international resources for its

implementation. It also required the Ministers' cooperation in creating the sustaining policy and institutional environment that would encourage small farmers to adopt sound agronomic and physical land conservation practices.

306. In response to the ECA Conference of Ministers' request in Tripoli in 1990, he said that FAO would place the subject of agrarian reform and rural development on the agenda of its seventeenth Regional Conference for Africa in 1992 for the consideration of the African Ministers of Agriculture. The documentation for that Conference would be available in State capitals two months before the meeting, to facilitate national consultations and adequate briefings on national positions. He then called for considered and authoritative discussions and valuable recommendations on the issue during the Conference.

307. The seventeenth meeting of the Conference marked the end of an era for Africa, and for the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. The 16 years in office of Professor Adedeji as Executive Secretary of the Commission had been undeniably eventful for ECA and African development. On behalf of Mr. Edouard Saouma, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, on behalf of the FAO Regional Representative for Africa, and on his own behalf, he thanked Professor Adedeji for his contributions to ECA/FAO cooperation in the service of Africa, and wished him every success in his future endeavours.

308. The representative of Burundi stated that the Conference was being held at a time when his country's Economic and Social Council was laying down the main guidelines of the 1993-1998 five-year development plan. Like most African countries, Burundi had implemented a structural adjustment programme. However, it was too early to define all its implications and realistically assess its impact. Nevertheless, structures had been developed to mitigate the effects of the structural adjustment programme. The budget allocated to the social sector, i.e., health, education, the advancement of women, social welfare and youth matters, had been increasing. Given the scarcity of resources, it was vital not only to be judicious in the conduct of activities but also to include all macro-economic factors and problems. Top priority had been given to the population issue, a factor that could well jeopardize the success of his country's plans.

309. Some concrete achievements had been made within the framework of that programme, including increased incentives to national investments, easier access to credit, establishment of the mutual assistance fund, rural savings and credit cooperatives, and guarantee funds for the national association for the economic advancement of women. The Government was concerned about the participation of the various groups of society in development. To ensure effective popular participation, the Government had made the commune the basic administrative entity for development. In that regard, the new communal law provided for total autonomy to be matched by a transfer of responsibility and resources for administering certain public facilities and infrastructures, such as schools, health centres, water supply and rural tracks. The Government also attached special importance to the participation of women in the development process, particularly in agriculture where women undertook 79 per cent of the work, and in the supply of energy, and the search for solutions to the population problem. Underestimating the importance of the participation of women would be a major error in terms of genuine popular participation as women accounted for 52 per cent of the total population.

310. He outlined the major political decisions that had marked a turning point in his country's history. In order to prevent the recurrence of the tribal wars that had broken out soon after independence, the people of Burundi had adopted a national unity charter in a recent referendum. In that document, the people had committed themselves to tolerance, peaceful coexistence and the transcendence of ethnic and religious conflicts. That was a precondition without which no democracy or development could be possible. The Government continued to make considerable efforts in the consolidation of the respect of human rights, such as the organization of the voluntary return of refugees from abroad.

311. The current sound political climate had to extend beyond national borders. In that regard, Burundi was counting on the support of various subregional groupings of which it was a member, namely CEPGL, ECCAS and PTA. Those had all been tangible achievements from the Lagos Plan of Action initiated by

ECA. The existence of such groupings could help resolve the problem of land-lockedness, the effects of which were most intensely felt during major oil crises. Coupled with the slump in the price of coffee, the main export product of the country, the already precarious balance-of-payments situation had become even worse. Despite membership of those groupings, however, intra-community and intra-African trade flows remained very low. For that reason, all the countries concerned had been urged to intensify trade.

312. He concluded by stating that Burundi was especially interested in any initiative aimed at subregional and regional integration. It was also interested in any measure to promote popular participation, and in policies advocating sustained and lasting development. He hoped that the rich and constructive exchange of opinion at the current Conference would enable Africa to escape its present impasse, and offer the continent a ray of hope in confronting its challenges.

313. The observer for ILO expressed solidarity with the Conference as it went forward to meet the challenges of the 1990s. He explained that, in that regard, the most outstanding priority was the issue of human rights, as reflected in the ratified ILO Conventions and Recommendations, as they dealt with minimum standards of working conditions at the global level. He further explained that human resources development, centring on management and vocational training as well as income-generating activities also formed ILO's priority areas in the 1990s. Second on the list of priorities was the improvement of the working conditions and environment, as they involved such issues as social security, wages and industrial relations. Africa's share of ILO's overall technical cooperation activities accounted for 52 per cent of the 1990-1991 biennial work programme.

314. He expressed his appreciation for the participation of OATUU in the Conference in compliance with the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation and hoped that in future the Pan-African Employers' Confederation would also participate in the work of the Conference. He finally assured the Conference that ILO would continue to give Africa priority in its activities in the 1990s, which would aim at the alleviation of poverty and inculcation of social justice in the development of the region.

315. The representative of Kenya paid tribute to Professor Adedeji who for the past 16 years had given himself totally to the service of the continent. His country joined the rest of the African and world community in wishing him the best in his future pursuits.

316. He believed that the guiding policy for Africa's economic development had been charted in the Lagos Plan of Action. It was unfortunate that, since its inception, domestic as well as external factors had militated against its successful implementation. Africa should not, however, give up, since the Plan remained as valid as it had been 10 years earlier. It was indeed heartening, in the light of various changes in international relations, that all over Africa, subregional groups were emerging to destroy the myth that Africa could never unite.

317. Kenya believed that Africa's social and economic problems would in the final analysis be solved only by Africans themselves. Whatever assistance was received from outside had to be regarded as supplementary to domestic efforts, and at best only temporary. Programmes and policies tailored outside Africa would not do unless they took cognizance of the reality of the region's social and cultural systems. Anything less was bound to fail no matter what amount of money and goodwill was invested.

318. The adverse effects of structural adjustment programmes were clear. Africans did not need lengthy explanations to tell them that an increase in food prices without a simultaneous increase in urban wages was going to hurt the urban poor; that liberalizing trade sometimes caused fledgling local industries to collapse resulting in unemployment; and that budgetary constraints often compelled governments to reduce or remove altogether certain vital essential services such as health, education and agriculture.

319. Kenya was fortunate in that it had of its own volition been implementing structural adjustment long before the advent of IMF and World Bank programmes. No programme would succeed if it did not sufficiently take into consideration the human dimension. There was a need to consult the people in all matters

that affected them. Through a system known as the "District Focus for Rural Development" committees at the lowest level of provincial administration, i.e., the sub-location, decided on what projects to accord priority in their village. Their proposals were then sent forward to the local division and district levels where similar committees incorporated them in development strategies for the entire district. The National Government did not therefore impose its will on districts and locations: it was the people at the lowest level who decided on their own priorities. The system ensured accountability for money allocated, as the people themselves could support and oversee the projects in their own areas.

320. Kenya agreed that there could be no development without democracy. However, democracy must respect the wishes of the people within a country. Democracy was democracy only as it was perceived by its beneficiaries and not as it was perceived by outsiders. It could exist in either multi-party or single party circumstances, depending on the will of the people, which in a democratic environment would reflect the particular circumstances of an individual nation.

321. The observer for UNESCO stated that much headway had been made by his Organization since the last meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers in Tripoli. That would continue, since the Priority Africa Programme formed part of UNESCO's Medium-term Plan for 1990-1995, and had been duly included in the draft programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 to be submitted to the October - November 1991 meeting of the UNESCO Governing Council. Mr. Federico Mayor, the Director-General, had affirmed that Africa was and would continue to be a priority. The fact that the programme was in line with General Assembly resolution 44/211 and the general current trends within the United Nations system would ensure that individual efforts were intensified in the context of concerted action by the United Nations system.

322. UNESCO's cooperation with ECA dated back to its inception. It had been enhanced through the innovative forum of the Joint Concertation Meetings, at which the two organizations reviewed their cooperation programme, harmonized their strategies and formulated and monitored the implementation of joint activities. UNESCO stood ready to continue its cooperation with ECA and the OAU as it would with individual African countries, the subregional and regional IGOs in Africa and other agencies, particularly within the context of UN-PAAERD, UNTACDA II, science and technology development and IDDA II.

323. The observer for the Islamic Republic of Iran recalled that the third world countries had established a new international economic order to free themselves from the obstacles to their development. Towards that end, numerous conferences had been held, some of which had no positive follow-up due to the prevailing unjust world economic system. ECA had opened a new forum of hope for the member States, as well as for other nations concerned with the development of Africa, in which they could organize, consolidate and coordinate their activities, and strengthen their efforts to achieve their development goal.

324. Efforts at development had been further frustrated by the recent war in the Persian Gulf. The African countries had been the worst affected by the crisis. It was necessary to pay compensation to those countries from a fund established for that purpose to compensate for the losses incurred.

325. Africa needed to revitalize its economy as a whole. To that end, it needed unity in the approach to its problems, which were almost uniform throughout the continent. Such economic unity would materialize only if it was supported by unity in political will and sincere cooperation among the African countries. The current economic strategies should be revised in favour of reliance on indigenous resources, and domestic capabilities and potentials. Serious efforts also should be made to secure the interest of the people and to create incentives for them to participate in social and economic development.

326. It was against that background that Iran, on the basis of its humanitarian ideals and the great value which it accorded to cooperation with the developing countries, had been seeking greater cooperation between itself and African countries. Iran accorded special importance to bilateral economic cooperation and joint ventures with African countries, and was implementing major construction projects in Africa. In view of the great potential in Africa, and the strong political bond between Iran and the African countries, economic cooperation between the two would continue to flourish.

327. He finally drew the attention of the meeting to the use in the Conference documents of the term "Gulf" crisis, when referring to the crisis in the "Persian Gulf". He requested that the right nomenclature, namely "Persian Gulf", be systematically used in accordance with United Nations editorial directives.

328. The observer for UNEP reminded the Conference that the Programme had established immediately after the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment in 1972 with a mandate to cater for global environmental problems. Nineteen years since then, questions of environmental dimensions, particularly pollution, climate change, ozone depletion, soil erosion, deforestation, desertification and the trans-boundary movements of dangerous products and toxic wastes, feature on the agenda of many international conferences, conventions and plans of action. In Africa, it was pointed out, environmental degradation was very closely linked with the development activities and despite the many plans of action, environmental degradation was still on the increase. For lack of funds, the work programmes adopted were not being fully implemented.

329. Although UNEP's mandate was catalytic rather than that of a funding agency, UNEP had been active in assisting member States to strengthen their institutions and structures so that the integration of environmental considerations into national and regional economic, social and cultural development would be ensured. It was in the same vein that UNEP stood ready to assist African Governments in their preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to be held in Brazil in 1992.

330. The observer for UNIDO paid homage to the Executive Secretary for the invaluable services he had rendered to Africa. He noted that the theme of the Conference called for reflection on concrete measures for making the continent heard and respected among nations. Africa should first mobilize its material and human resources through a better socio-economic organization of the continent using national, subregional and regional institutions. Furthermore, each country should agree to transfer some of its sovereignty to the African Economic Community.

331. He stressed the importance of strengthening the linkages between rural, industrial and trade development sectors, transport and communications, human resources development and the use of science and technology in order to secure the transformation of African economies. To that end, Africa should increase and improve its production, and should embark on the local processing of its agricultural and mineral raw materials in order to meet domestic demand, and to export finished and semi-finished products. Trade among African countries and with developed countries should be intensified through appropriate mechanisms set up in Africa and should not necessarily emulate those in the industrialized countries, for that could lead to a persistent deterioration of terms of trade.

332. He recalled that the second Industrial Development Decade under preparation would take account of the great need for linkages among the various sectors mentioned above so as to secure the maximum impact. Moreover, member States should direct their creative energy into the successful implementation of the programmes entrusted to them, such as those of the Transport and Communications Decade, the Industrial Development Decade, the long-term plan of FAO for agricultural development, AAF-SAP and the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation. He noted that the proper implementation of these programmes and innovations emanating from them would make national economies more productive and competitive in an interdependent world.

333. Concluding, he urged the Conference to share his optimism on what Africa would become by the year 2000. With all that Africans had achieved in arts, music, painting, sports and science and technology to demonstrate their creative genius, he saw no reason why they should be unable to master their social and economic conditions and manage them rationally.

334. The representative of Morocco said that the objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action were still topical and relevant, as indeed were the subregional and regional integration approaches. Some updating was, however, necessary particularly at a time when major economic blocs were being formed in the world. He stressed that such updating should take into consideration crucial aspects of development such as science, technology, manpower development and management and both the cultural dimension and Africa's identity.

335. While African countries had generally instituted measures to honour their commitment to the implementation of UN-PAAERD, the measures taken by the international community had fallen far below the expectations of Africa. That had often limited the chances of success of the domestic reforms on which the African countries had embarked. Meeting the challenges of the 1990s would require the preparation of a fresh cooperation programme that combined the need for structural adjustment with transformation on the one hand, and the urgency of meeting the vital needs of the people on the other hand.

336. Morocco recognized that transport and communications and industry were strategic to national, subregional and regional development. It therefore welcomed the adoption of the UNTACDA II programme, and appealed to all member States to speed up preparations for the launching of the second IDDA. He reviewed the major socio-economic reforms undertaken by his country since 1984 which included economic, monetary and financial measures. Those reforms had made it possible to raise the competitiveness of the Moroccan economy and secure a healthy balance of payments. He also informed the meeting about the experience of his country in decentralization, democratization, pluralism and economic liberalization. Subregional integration efforts had been pursued within the context of the Arab Maghreb Union. He proposed that the new agenda for cooperation with the international community should be built around the commitment of Africa to consolidate its reform and democratization efforts and the specific commitment of the international community to institute substantive measures that would improve Africa's debt and commodity situation. He reiterated the appeal made by his country the previous year in Tripoli for the establishment of an advisory council on economic planning in Africa with a view to provoking strategic thinking on the major challenges of the continent.

337. He finally paid tribute and bade farewell to the Executive Secretary of ECA and his Deputy, who were both leaving the Commission. As a gesture of appreciation and remembrance of the services that Professor Adedeji had rendered to Africa, he proposed that the new Conference Centre being built should be named the "Adebayo Adedeji Conference Centre" and that the Conference of Ministers should adopt a resolution on the matter.

338. The representative of Angola saw the current session within the context of the profound changes which Africa was currently undergoing. The disappointments in the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action during the past ten years had been due both to internal factors and to an international environment that had been unfavourable to the development of the continent. In spite of structural adjustment programmes designed by the Bretton Woods institutions, and UN-PAAERD, it had been rightly said that the 1980s had been a lost decade for Africa. Problems had been further compounded in a number of African countries including Angola, by civil wars, which had disastrous effects on the economies and peoples of those countries, claiming thousands of lives and occasioning declines in production, a mass rural exodus, and destruction of infrastructure.

339. He said that his country had been facing a difficult socio-political situation since independence, which had serious repercussions on the national economy. That had not, however, prevented the country from playing a major role in the struggle for the liberation of its sister nations in Southern Africa. He went on to review the various initiatives taken by his country in the economic field, including the redirection of the economy to a market system, and the launching of an economic and financial recovery programme through measures aimed at balancing the domestic accounts. His country had also adopted a structural adjustment programme. At the political level, he cited among other measures the promulgation of a new constitution instituting a pluralistic system and a greater guarantee for the exercise of civil liberties, as well as the recent signing with UNITA of agreements putting an end to a 15-year-long civil war.

340. The representative of Algeria paid tribute to Professor Adedeji, recognizing in that worthy son of Africa, a man of compassion and reason who had placed his rare human and professional qualities in the service of Africa's overriding interests. He emphasized that the ongoing session of the ECA Conference of Ministers was taking place at a time which could be for Africa both an occasion for stock-taking of its socio-economic situation as well as a sign of a new start. It was a time, first and foremost, for analysis of the consequences of the oil crisis on African economies and for a review of the implementation of the Lagos

Plan of Action and UN-PAAERD. In that regard, the Draft Memorandum on UN-PAAERD could serve as a basis for discussions on the implementation of a new framework for cooperation between Africa and the rest of the international community.

341. On the process of global reform of economic and social life in Algeria, he indicated that at the economic level, a wide-ranging stabilization programme had been developed by national experts. The policy was reflected by the implementation, in the current programme of the Government, of measures aimed at reviving the production and financial system. They involved the control of inflation through the reduction of public expenditures, and the pursuit of a strict credit policy which gave priority to the re-centralization of the economy at its productive nucleus. The introduction of fiscal reform contributed to financial liquidity, stimulated production and consolidated social justice. There was also a gradual absorption of goods, services and currency from the parallel market into the mainstream through a wide range of effective economic measures.

342. The industrial restructuring of the public sector was based on granting autonomy to enterprises by transforming them into joint-stock companies governed by commercial law. In agriculture, the former public sector farms had also been restructured into smaller holdings exploited individually, or by small groups operating on a commercial basis free from State control. At the social level, the Government's programme had consisted in evolving legislation that allowed for the formation of workers' unions and the protection of their rights; actions targeted at the disadvantaged classes of society; the introduction of income policy measures; and improvement in the areas of education, training and public health.

343. The representative of the United Republic of Tanzania pointed out that, with the loss of nearly one per cent in output growth between 1989 and 1990, Africa's fragile recovery that had begun in 1988 could neither be sustained nor consolidated. That was in spite of the efforts made by most African Governments to undertake structural adjustment programmes. During the oil crisis, his country had been forced to use 80 per cent of its total export earnings to import oil and petroleum, leaving only 20 per cent for other socio-economic development programmes. He noted that with such a bleak picture, it would be extremely difficult to keep existing structural adjustment programmes on track, particularly in the face of falling commodity prices.

344. He noted that the first phase of the implementation of Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos had been most disappointing, even though positive steps had been taken to promote the economic integration process. PTA was moving towards integration in his subregion. The imminent signing of the treaty establishing the African Economic Community marked the culmination of an historic process of events and initiatives, which had been orchestrated by African Heads of State and Government as a means of decolonizing the continent economically from the inherited structures that had been responsible for Africa's underdevelopment.

345. His own country had organized a national conference on the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation. That conference had been extremely useful in popularizing the Charter, and ECA and other United Nations agencies might wish to assist other countries to organize similar conferences.

346. The results of the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries held in Paris in September 1990 had fallen below expectations as many crucial issues affecting LDCs such as financial support to adjustment programmes, external debt, commodity prices, and official development assistance had yet to be effectively tackled. He hoped that the Conference would come up with specific recommendations on the issue.

347. He concluded by paying tribute to Professor Adedeji, with whom he had the honour and privilege of working closely. He described him as a true African who was also a revolutionary in his own way.

348. The representative of Togo stated that ten years after the adoption of the Lagos Plan of Action and five years after the adoption of UN-PAAERD, it was time to ascertain what each African country had done to improve the economic and social conditions of its people. In spite of the bold economic reforms undertaken by all its countries to revive growth, Africa was still experiencing alarming structural economic difficulties, due primarily to the fact that recovery measures were circumscribed in the short term, that drought had become cyclical, and that the international economic environment had steadily deteriorated. The consequence of that situation had been that African economies were confronted with a drastic fall in export earnings, which had combined with the external debt-servicing burden to jeopardize the implementation of such economic development projects and programmes as were likely to revitalize the economy. For that reason, Togo had embarked upon subregional and regional cooperation on the one hand, and had reaffirmed its commitment to the African common position on the external debt, on the other.

349. In terms of national economic measures, his country had instituted rigorous economic policy reforms through several financial stabilization and structural adjustment programmes. Generally, those programmes had been aimed at restoring the balance of public finances, restructuring the public enterprise sector, improving the programming of public investment, and channelling such investment into the priority sectors described in UN-PAAERD as capable of generating growth. In that context, his country accorded high priority to rural development.

350. Togo had prepared a macro-economic development plan for the period 1991-1995 as part of its preparations for the second donor conference on national development. The idea was to remove obstacles to economic development and to stimulate growth using the agriculture, light industry and trade sectors, with particular emphasis being laid on the social dimension of various development policies.

351. Togo deeply regretted the decision of Professor Adedeji to relinquish the leadership of ECA at a time when his services were most needed. Togo was most sincerely thankful for the important contribution he had made in the search for solutions to the innumerable development problems of Africa.

352. The representative of the Sudan paid tribute to the ECA Executive Secretary, Professor Adedeji, who was leaving his post after a tenure full of achievements. It was he who had given ECA its prominent position among the United Nations sister organizations and specialized agencies. The representative welcomed the participation of independent Namibia in the meetings of ECA, and commended TEPCOW for its great efforts.

353. He called for mobilization of Africa's potential to devise new solutions to the grave conditions reflected in the Economic Report on Africa, 1991. Like other speakers, he felt the need for fundamental change and transformation in Africa within the framework of the policies and strategies adopted by Africa in instruments such as the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos. With regard to the economic situation in his country, he said that an economic programme had been developed, based on self-reliance, the optimum utilization of resources (particularly in the agricultural sector), liberalization of prices and provision of incentives for producers. The programme also took into account the human dimension of development. A fund for social insurance had been established to support low income and vulnerable groups in the population. Other measures had been taken towards privatization, promotion of investment and public participation in the development process.

354. He was pleased to announce that his Government had recently released all political prisoners, and issued an amnesty to all who carried arms against the State so as to allow them to take part in development, peace and security. The oil crisis had imposed a heavy burden on the Sudan's economy as a result of rising costs of imports, the return of Sudanese workers from abroad, and the fall in external remittances. The world community should provide aid and assistance to countries affected by that crisis. The only option for Africa to get over its economic difficulties, he said, was the implementation of the strategies and policies adopted by Africa, and in this regard he made particular reference to the establishment of the African Economic Community.

355. The representative of Rwanda noted that his country had become a member of CEPGL, KBO, ECCAS and PTA. Each of those communities was important so long as the African Economic Community had not yet become a reality.

356. The role of ECA in Africa's economic integration was also important, and the Commission should be given the means for performing the tasks it had been assigned. In this connection, he hailed the decision taken by the General Assembly to strengthen the MULPOCs. The Conference of Ministers must now give clear directions to the MULPOCs so that they could play their rightful role in regional integration.

357. The economic reforms undertaken in his country were described in the economic policy programme that had been negotiated with the World Bank and the IMF. The macro-economic and sectoral measures advocated had to do with exchange rate adjustment, trade liberalization, pricing and interest rate policies, fiscal and customs tariff reforms, public enterprise rehabilitation, education, agriculture and other sectors. It was unfortunate that Rwanda had been the victim of an external armed attack which had delayed the commencement of the programme and increased the country's financial problems.

358. AAF-SAP was an invaluable frame of reference and negotiating instrument. ECA should discuss with the Bretton Woods institutions the substance of AAF-SAP with a view to making it the sole negotiating instrument for African countries. ECA's analytical and persuasive capabilities should also be brought to bear on funding agencies and African countries alike. The Commission should increase its technical assistance to African countries for the design and management of structural adjustment programmes.

359. Rwanda considered the African debt as a major obstacle to the continent's economic, social and cultural development and advocated the concepts of exchange risk sharing, the cancellation of project debts and part payment in local currency of contracted debts as solutions. The assumption of responsibility, where necessary, for outside services rendered in African countries would also be desirable in order to avoid African farmers having to subsidize certain sectors in the industrialized countries.

360. In conclusion, he paid tribute to Professor Adedeji and his role in the development of the continent.

361. The observer for France noted that the removal of impediments to democracy, the integration of demographic factors in socio-economic development planning, the elimination of bureaucratic inertia, and management deficiencies which had hindered development in Africa, constituted an orientation that could only lead to a revitalization of growth and development in Africa. He observed that the rehabilitation of the manufacturing sectors, the development of both private and public transport, as well as the promotion of intra-African trade were essential ingredients for revitalizing growth within a subregional framework.

362. He pointed out that since 1986, France had been contributing its share towards the growth in real terms, of OECD countries' bilateral assistance to Africa. It had also played a major role in the decisions that had been taken since the Toronto Summit to alleviate Africa's public debt burden.

363. He concluded by praising the work of Professor Adedeji and his colleagues in the ECA secretariat, which had led to the widespread acceptance of a new concept of development for Africa.

364. The observer for Germany expressed gratitude to all nations and peoples who had helped to make German unification possible. The future creation of a united Europe of peace and stability could also be an incentive for peaceful cooperation in the African continent.

365. He noted that the theme of the Conference was an indication of the determination of Africa to meet the challenges before it. Germany would do everything possible to help Africa solve its problems, since the common task for the future was to establish a partnership for development based on reform and sustainable national policies in the developing countries, and backed by a supportive international community.

366. There was a need to pursue a development strategy which would ensure that national policies carried at least the same weight as the contribution provided by the international community. He recognized that Africa had provided a stimulus for their strategy by adopting, among other things, the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation. He underlined the importance of population and environmental issues. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) of 1992 should generate regional and supra-regional cooperation in matters of global environmental protection.

367. He assured the meeting that the additional burdens created by German unification and its increased assistance to Central and Eastern Europe would not detract from its aid to developing countries, particularly to the poorest countries of Africa. His Government would continue to promote German investment in Africa. Africa was a focal point of Germany's efforts to ease the debt burden.

368. He noted that African development efforts were being increasingly hampered by civil wars and other civil disorders. He, accordingly looked forward to the forthcoming Kampala Conference on Security, Stability, Cooperation and Development in Africa.

369. He expressed his appreciation for ECA's regional cooperation programme, under which his country would give special support to the projects on the development of the informal sector, and the intensification of popular participation. He extended the best wishes of his country to Professor Adedeji.

370. The observer for the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that the twenty-sixth session of the Commission was being held at a historic time, when mankind, having virtually put an end to the era of confrontation, was facing the dramatic challenge of finding ways and means of building a peaceful future. Of particular importance was the development of a constructive dialogue on the ways of overcoming the critical economic situation in Africa. African policy was still among the foreign political and economic priorities of the Soviet Union, believing as it did that world problems could not be solved without taking into consideration the significance of the African factor for the destinies of the world. Accordingly, the Soviet Union attached great significance to assisting African States in solving their complicated problems, contradictions and conflicts.

371. The attainment of Namibia's independence had been marked by Soviet participation. His country was closely following the development of the political situation in South Africa and welcomed the positive processes towards a speedy dismantling of *apartheid*.

372. The results of the major international economic meetings held in the current year had convincingly demonstrated the urgency of a multilateral approach to the solution of economic problems of the United Nations system. The active participation of ECA member States in articulating decisions of the abovementioned fora had been much appreciated. With the prolonged economic crisis in Africa, the significance of regional and subregional integration was growing. The Soviet Union supported those African leaders who advocated that the "rhetoric of solidarity" should be replaced by genuine "South-South" cooperation. The establishment of the African Economic Community in accordance with the Lagos Plan of Action was fully in keeping with the goals of such cooperation.

373. The Soviet Union supported the African countries' endeavours to overcome their economic crises. It was currently engaged with its African partners in a review of approaches to trade and economic cooperation, with a view to instituting mutually beneficial ties. Those included the establishment of joint ventures, conclusion of direct contracts between firms, and other non-traditional forms of cooperation. Joint ventures had recently been undertaken with the United Republic of Tanzania, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Namibia. The Soviet Union was also considering options of tripartite cooperation with Africa and the countries of Western Europe.

374. As the economic situation in the Soviet Union improved and it became more integrated into the international economic system, its aid to the developing countries would also increase. The Soviet Union

recognized its share of responsibility for ensuring the normal functioning of all sectors of the world economy.

375. With regard to debt, the Soviet Union considered it necessary to urgently initiate, at a multilateral level, the harmonization of common principles for debt settlement, and the development of a political framework for further specific negotiations between creditors and debtors. On its part, the Soviet Union had adopted concrete measures to ease the debt burden of African countries. Currently, the Soviet Union, together with some African countries, was working out practical schemes for debt settlement on the basis of mutual interests.

376. In the effort to strengthen regional economic integration, it was necessary to emphasize the interrelation between development problems and disarmament. It would be important for the Commission to pay adequate attention to those issues in the future. He concluded by stating that the Soviet Union appreciated the alternative framework to structural adjustment in African countries proposed by ECA, and wished the Commission every success in its work.

377. The observer for UNDP addressed the Conference on behalf of Mr. Pierre-Clavier Damiba, Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa who, for reasons beyond his control, had been unable to attend the current meeting. UNDP, which constituted ECA's most important source of extrabudgetary resources, was pleased with the cooperation it had maintained with ECA ever since its creation. Over the past 16 years, it had particularly enjoyed an excellent working relationship with Professor Adedeji, the outgoing Executive Secretary and United Nations Under-Secretary-General. The Orientation Paper for UNDP's fifth Inter-country Programming Cycle had been prepared in consultation with ECA. He was pleased that TEPCOW had seen fit to recommend the endorsement of the orientation paper for the fifth cycle by the Conference, and of its suggested priority areas. One of those had to do with support to be given to the African regional integration process, including the establishment of the African Economic Community.

378. Having been a close collaborator of Professor Adedeji for many years when he was at ECA, the observer praised Professor Adedeji for the leadership that he had provided as executive head of the Commission, notably in connection with the establishment of PTA and ECCAS. UNDP would convey its official appreciation to Professor Adedeji for the work ECA and UNDP had been able to accomplish over the years to the benefit of the African region.

379. The observer for UNFPA identified the problems of dependence, debt, deprivation, and demography as four of the most dangerous forces crippling Africa. Not only was each of those forces powerful enough to shackle the African continent, they were also producing together a complex set of linkages that made resolution of regional issues even more difficult.

380. The current social and economic crisis in Africa was taking place in a demographic environment characterized by rapid and in many cases accelerating rates of population growth, worsening patterns of population distribution and the unprecedented growth of large metropolitan centres. The annual growth rate of population had stuck at 3 per cent and would stay at that level well into the twenty-first century. He noted, however, that there had been an enormous progress in the region to the recognition given to the important role played by population factors in the development planning process. The need for compatibility between economic and population growth was becoming a policy perspective in many African countries.

381. UNFPA had been assisting almost all the African countries with their national population strategies. UNFPA was also collaborating with ECA, OAU, IFORD, RIPS, IDEP and a number of other regional institutions. UNFPA was looking forward to cooperating with ECA and the African countries in the holding of the 1992 population conference. His organization was also making a proposal for consideration by its Governing Council in June 1991 on a streamlined arrangement for the establishment of technical support teams at subregional levels in all parts of the developing world. Currently, UNFPA was in the midst of negotiations with the United Nations and its regional commissions on the implementation of the UNFPA

proposal. In that connection, he expressed concern with resolution 2 (XII) on UNFPA technical support teams, which had been adopted by the Conference.

382. In conclusion, he paid tribute to the outgoing ECA Executive Secretary for the tremendous contribution he had made to the African continent during his 16 years of tenure.

383. The representative of Zaire said that the seventeenth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers was taking place at a time when the economic and social situation of the continent was becoming more and more alarming.

384. Several global constraints confronted Africa. Among them were the collapse of socialism, and the recent appearance of new European democracies which, like the South-East Asian countries, were more attractive than African economies to foreign investors, industrialized countries and international donor agencies.

385. Given a situation in which young African economies exported commodities only for the payment and servicing of their debt, and in which access to capital was mainly subject to agreements made with the IMF and the World Bank, he wondered whether there could be any resources left for the African continent to finance its economic and social recovery and transformation.

386. The failure of the orthodox stabilization and structural adjustment programmes adopted by African countries had been caused by the use of inappropriate policy instruments in rigid African economic structures. His country had launched its first five-year development plan in 1986 and had subjected its economy to the IMF- and World Bank-instigated SAPs. The results for the country had been dismal, compared to population growth, which was currently at 3 per cent per annum. His country had already embarked upon several initiatives for collective infrastructure development, integrated rural development and the development of the social sectors in order to correct the social problems caused by the SAPs. That was why his country supported the adoption of such economic development instruments as UN-PAAERD and AAF-SAP.

387. In the search for long-term solutions, his country had endorsed the idea expressed the previous year by the Maastricht International Conference on Africa, and called upon the ECA member States to adopt a strategy of long-term transformation based on human resources, production growth, increased regional integration and cooperation, and improved management. In view of current developments in North America, Western Europe and Asia, for example, Africa must also strengthen its subregional groupings as a precondition for the institution of a vast African Economic Community.

388. The MULPOCs should, therefore, be reorganized and strengthened with the human, technical and financial resources necessary for the execution of the projects assigned to them by member States either directly or through intergovernmental organizations.

389. ECA and UNDP should jointly organize regular consultative meetings to bring together the IGOs, the MULPOCs, UNDP and the other specialized agencies of the United Nations operating in the same subregion so as to avoid overlapping and duplication of projects. Such meetings should be held during every preparatory period of the biennial programmes of the MULPOCs and the UNDP inter-country programming cycles to allow for the preparation of technical assistance programmes to help States and intergovernmental organizations alike.

390. Emphasis should also be placed on the mobilization of financial resources for the second IDDA and the second UNTACDA. All technical and financial assistance organizations should be called upon to provide the necessary resources for the implementation of both Decades.

391. He presented a summary of some of the major challenges that Africa would have to face in the coming years and a set of recommendations for dealing with them. The challenges included poverty,

indebtedness, resource mobilization, promotion of the private sector and the establishment of the African Economic Community.

392. With regard to poverty, he advocated that African leaders should take demographic and natural factors into account in formulating policies for sustained growth. With regard to indebtedness, African countries should adopt strict policies for the management of their public finances and pursue a sensible policy of ensuring that loans contracted went into projects likely to generate such resources as would guarantee debt repayment.

393. With regard to the promotion of the private sector, he stressed the importance of rehabilitating or promoting African small- and medium-scale enterprises. In that regard, funding structures needed to be established and technical guidance provided for such small- and medium-scale enterprises in support of the ADB initiatives being taken in that connection.

394. With a view to establishing the African Economic Community, he advocated that Africa must make every effort to build integrated structures for the manufacture of intermediate and capital goods as part of its subregional programmes in agriculture and industry. Furthermore, Africa should endeavour to boost the integration of its physical infrastructure and markets.

Consideration of the report of the twelfth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole (agenda item 6)

395. The Chairman of the twelfth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole introduced the report of the Committee as contained in document E/ECA/CM.17/31, for the consideration of the Conference. The Conference considered the report agenda item by agenda item. Discussion took place on the following items:

PART I: Preliminary review of Africa's economic and social performance in 1990 and prospects for 1991

396. In considering paragraphs 32 to 40 on the Economic Report on Africa, the Conference noted that the report had become an important and educative source document for member States. However, with regard to certain points made in the report, the impression should not be given that countries implementing AAF-SAP or SAPs would not experience adverse effects on economic and social development during the period of implementation. For example, inflation rates remained a source of worry to many of the countries implementing SAPs. None the less, it had to be underscored that the success of programmes depended on several factors, including implementation capacity, management expertise and appropriateness of policies.

397. In considering paragraphs 41 to 44 on the impact of the oil crisis on African economies, the Conference underscored the point that those African countries that had suffered from the oil crisis should also benefit from the global compensation fund that was being established for the front-line States. Initiatives should, therefore, be taken by the Conference to assist member States in achieving that goal.

PART II: Transformation, recovery and adjustment

398. In considering paragraphs 45 to 52 on the Decennial Review of the Lagos Plan of Action, the Conference drew attention to the statement that, during the 1980s, there had been a crisis of development planning in Africa, which had resulted from the pursuit of orthodox SAPs. It observed that, at the initial stages, planning might be incompatible with SAPs because of the emergency remedial measures that were often required. However, SAPs per se were not necessarily incompatible with medium- and long-term development planning.

399. With regard to paragraphs 53 to 64, on the Final Review and Appraisal of UN-PAAERD, the Conference considered the strategy of "debt alleviation" as opposed to "debt cancellation" as an option for

reducing obstacles to the implementation of UN-PAAERD. It agreed that debt cancellation was the course to pursue.

400. Concerning paragraphs 70 to 75 on the revitalization of long-term planning for structural transformation, the Conference felt that the impact of African development plans had been reduced by, firstly, a lack of discipline in plan implementation. In the future, African Governments would be called upon to cope with democratic and market-oriented economic structures, which would require more disciplined management than the centralized structures to which they were currently accustomed. Secondly, development plans had tended to be somewhat ambitious and had not always taken advantage of domestic resources. Governments had been encouraged to borrow heavily, thereby increasing their debt burden. Loan funds had not found their way to resource generating programmes, and this had further reduced national capacity to repay. It was then the absence of alternatives at times of crisis that had forced governments to accept SAPs, and to deviate from their normal planning processes.

401. In considering paragraphs 84 to 90, on the impact of SAPs on population, the Conference stated that, contrary to the impression given by the report that social adjustment programmes needed to be developed, such programmes already existed. The problem was that they were not adequately funded, and that they were the first to suffer as the economic measures began to take effect. There was a need to build such programmes into the structural adjustment timetable from the outset.

PART III: Issues, studies and reports on regional cooperation for development in Africa

402. In considering paragraphs 99 to 102 on the progress report on the strengthening of the subregional integration process, some delegations hoped that, in the future, the definitions of subregions as they were conceived by the United Nations and by the treaty establishing the African Economic Community would be aligned to constitute a common frame of reference.

PART IV: Statutory issues

403. With regard to paragraphs 162 to 167 on the follow-up action on relevant resolutions adopted by the twenty-fifth session of the Commission, the Conference underscored the importance of implementing resolutions on institutions, and appealed to member States to continue to give their financial support. That was especially the case with institutions such as the African Institute for Higher Technical Training and Research (AIHTTR), which had specialized in science and technology, and was an important mechanism in Africa's drive for sustainable development.

404. The Conference took note of the report and adopted the draft resolutions and the memorandum to the Ad hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly on the Final Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of UN-PAAERD, 1986-1990 appropriately amended and as herewith presented.

Eighth Pledging Conference of the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD) (agenda item 7)

405. The eighth Pledging Conference was opened by the Chairman of the twenty-sixth session of the Commission/seventeenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers.

406. The Executive Secretary welcomed all participants and said that ECA was encouraged by the enthusiasm which many member States continued to show for the pledging meetings. He recalled the purpose of UNTFAD, which had been established by the Secretary-General of the United Nations at the request of the legislative organs of the Commission.

407. He underscored the fact that UNTFAD had always been a very significant funding source for ECA, as resources made available under the Fund could be used with flexibility to meet requirements in some

critical areas of economic activity. That was particularly so when funding from bilateral and multilateral sources could not be foreseen. He, therefore, appealed to all member States to significantly increase their pledges to the Fund and ensure that their contributions were paid on time. He reviewed the activities and priority areas to be financed from UNTFAD during the biennium 1992-1993. He finally expressed his sincere gratitude to the non-African countries and international organizations that had demonstrated their unfailing support to Africa through their significant financial contributions to UNTFAD.

408. In his statement, the Chairman gave a brief history of the Fund. He emphasized that the various contributions had constituted invaluable resources for financing activities in areas deemed crucial for Africa's development. However, the continuous decline in UNTFAD resources was becoming increasingly alarming and African countries should immediately take decisive action to reverse the trend. He called upon all ECA member countries to make further efforts to support this regional initiative, which would enable ECA to implement activities for the direct benefit of member States.

409. He commended efforts made by ECA, under the leadership of its Executive Secretary, in the establishment of regional economic integration and cooperation strategies and policies. On behalf of member States, he thanked the international community which had generously provided assistance to Africa through its contribution to UNTFAD. Such action would help Africa to overcome the unprecedented economic crisis that it was currently experiencing. In conclusion, he invited member countries and donors present to give concrete form to their commitment to cooperate in Africa's development by pledging generously to UNTFAD.

410. The Conference reiterated the importance of self-reliant development and the need for African countries to help themselves along that path. It considered UNTFAD as a valuable instrument for promoting self-reliant development and giving substance to the various programmes that the African leaders and people had adopted for the socio-economic emancipation of the continent. These included the Lagos Plan of Action, the Final Act of Lagos, AAF-SAP and the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation.

411. The Conference noted with concern that since the inception of UNTFAD in 1977, only US$ 12 million had been pledged with less than 50 per cent paid up. It appealed to those member States in arrears to the Fund to pay and to those which had never pledged to do likewise so that African countries would be taken seriously. Equally, it made an appeal to the international community to continue its assistance to Africa by contributing to the Fund.

412. The Conference expressed its appreciation to ECA for the good use to which the resources of the Fund had been put. It, however, requested greater transparency in its use and for TEPCOW to be authorized to consider the audited accounts of the Fund and to analyze the allocation of resources among projects.

413. The representative of Nigeria pledged $US 50,000. He promised that his country would do more when its economic conditions improved.

414. The representative of Angola indicated that his country had not contributed to the Fund because of the civil war in the country. With peace approaching, his Government would henceforth contribute. He then announced a contribution of $US 10,000, which he assured the Conference would be fully paid as soon as possible.

415. The representative of Malawi renewed the commitment of his country to the Fund and announced a contribution of $US 2,500 for the benefit of the Lusaka-based MULPOC.

416. The observer for France indicated that as in the previous year his Government would contribute an amount of $US 71,249 to the Fund.

417. The representative of Uganda announced a contribution of $US 17,853 representing an increase of 50 per cent compared to that of 1990-1991. The contribution would be paid through the UNDP office in Kampala.

418. The representative of Namibia expressed his country's appreciation to ECA for its contribution to the nationhood programme for Namibia. His country stood ready to collaborate with ECA in its efforts for African development by contributing to the Fund and would communicate the specific amount to ECA in due course.

419. The observer for China announced a contribution of 300,000 Yuan to support the solar energy programme in ECA.

420. The representative of Zambia indicated that, so far, his country had contributed US$ 157,687 to UNTFAD and that the arrears of $US 15,080 should be paid by now. He informed the Conference that his country would make very shortly a contribution to the Fund for the period 1992-1993.

421. The representative of Zimbabwe indicated that his country had to date pledged and paid $US 179,744 and would contribute not less than the amount of its last pledge. The exact figure would be communicated to ECA very shortly.

422. The representative of Zaire indicated that his country had pledged for $US 622,045 since the inception of the Fund. He further indicated that the arrears of $US 10,500 were being paid and announced a contribution of $US 50,000 to support the Gisenyi-based MULPOC and the UNTACDA II programme.

423. The representative of Ethiopia renewed the commitment of his country to the Fund and announced a contribution of ETB 30,000 equivalent in kind.

424. The representative of Guinea indicated that his country's arrears of $US 5,000 would be paid in due course and that the new contribution would be announced very shortly.

425. The representative of the Sudan announced a contribution of $US 10,000 to show that, despite the many problems it was facing, his country still supported the Fund.

426. In closing the pledging Conference, the Chairman announced that pledges had amounted to $US 275,000. He thanked all the countries that had pledged and expressed the hope that the others would soon be in a position to make similar commitments.

Any other business (agenda item 8)

427. No issue was raised under this item.

Date and venue and other matters related to the twenty-seventh session of the Commission/eighteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers (agenda item 9)

428. The Executive Secretary informed the meeting that in accordance with the established practice by which the meetings of the Conference of Ministers were hosted every other year by a member State, the twenty-seventh session of the Commission/eighteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers should be held away from the Commission's headquarters. If the principle of rotation among the various subregions were to apply, that meeting of the Conference should be held in a country in Eastern and Southern Africa.

429. The representative of Namibia informed the Conference that the next session of the Commission could in principle be held at Windhoek, Namibia, but that confirmation of that would be provided only after further consultations with all concerned.

Consideration and adoption of the report and resolutions of the meeting (agenda item 10)

430. The Conference adopted the present report as well as resolutions 724 (XXVI) and 725 (XXVI) which were not considered by the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole.

Closing of the meeting (agenda item 11)

431. In his closing remarks, the Executive Secretary expressed his appreciation to the Conference for the support that it had provided to him throughout his 16 years of service with the Commission. He was leaving ECA, confident that the Commission would continue its valuable work to help meet the challenges facing the continent. During his tenure, ECA had been working in close collaboration with the OAU and ADB to assist African Governments and peoples. He invited the Conference to continue its support to the women and men of the ECA secretariat whose desire was to provide the best services to the continent.

432. In a vote of thanks moved by the representative of the Sudan, the Conference expressed its deepest gratitude to His Excellency Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, President of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (PDRE), General Secretary of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia and Commander-in-Chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Ethiopia, the Government and people of the PDRE for the generous hospitality and brotherly welcome that had made possible the successful holding of all the meetings related to the twenty-sixth session of the Commission.

433. In his closing statement, the Chairman, on behalf of the bureau, thanked TEPCOW, the ECA secretariat and the interpreters whose good work had made the Conference a success.

434. The 1980s had been a lost decade for Africa despite the tremendous efforts made by Africans to solve their socio-economic problems. What Africa needed was economic integration as a means of economic survival, sustainability and growth, mainly through subregional cooperation between and among African countries, as well as through national consciousness and popular participation for development. In their quest for socio-economic recovery, transformation and development, governments should be guided by the Lagos Plan of Action, the Final Act of Lagos and the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation. Africa must mobilize and rationally use its resources, pursue self-reliance and at the same time seek and effectively utilize all possible external assistance to further promote its development. At such a critical time of its development, Africa needed the assistance of the international community. The Conference had fostered a fresh commitment among Africans to overcome their difficulties, meet the challenges of the 1990s and achieve regional long-term development objectives. This should be done through unity of purpose, using to best advantage the favourable wind of change blowing across the continent, working together, securing better management of resources and ensuring public accountability.

435. He then declared the meeting closed.

D. Programme of work and priorities

436. In 1990, 91 per cent of total output programmed was delivered by the substantive divisions of the secretariat. Of the remaining output, 1 per cent was implemented after reformulation and the remainder delayed to 1991. From a comparison of the first years of the 1988-1989 and 1990-1991 bienniums' levels of performance, the base implementation rate was higher in 1990 than in 1988. Only three outputs were reformulated in 1990 compared to 18 in 1988. The reduction in deviation from the list of programmed activities reflects the drop in the vacancy rate for the secretariat, which has provided greater stability, and the improved planning ability of programme managers.

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CHAPTER IV

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS AT ITS SEVENTEENTH MEETING

705 (XXVI). Implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos at national, subregional and regional levels

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the adoption of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, in Lagos in 1980 as the basic programme for socio-economic development and integration of the African economies,

Recalling also the decennial review and appraisal of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos undertaken by the high-level expert group meeting organized in Lagos, Nigeria, from 6 to 8 December 1990 by the Organization of African Unity, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank,

Taking note of the recommendations made by the experts with a view to revitalizing the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos,

Convinced that the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos whose objectives, priorities and strategies are still valid for the 1990s and beyond, are and remain the blue-print for Africa's future socio-economic development,

Noting with concern that the majority of African countries have not adequately incorporated the principles of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos into their policies, plans and programmes,

1. Reaffirms its faith in and full adherence to the spirit of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos as Africa's basic programme for socio-economic development and transformation in the 1990s and beyond;

2. Further reaffirms that the review and appraisal exercise was not meant to change the basic text of the Lagos Plan of Action and Final Act of Lagos but rather to highlight additional areas of focus;

3. Recommends that all national Governments should base their short-, medium- and long-term development plans, programmes and policies on the content of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos as well as additional areas of focus, namely African cultural dimension, science and technology, management development, human resources development especially education, popular participation particularly greater participation of women in development, strengthening the democratization processes, and mobilization of internal and external financial resources for the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos;

4. Calls upon all national governments to give adequate publicity to the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos by distributing the document to all their agencies, institutions of higher learning and local authorities so as to assist them in planning and to hold periodic seminars, workshops and conferences on the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos;

5. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission, the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the President of the African Development Bank to jointly monitor the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos by member States and submit reports to the Conference of Ministers of the Commission and, through it, to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity every two years starting from 1992;

6. Requests also the Executive Secretary of Commission, the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the President of the African Development Bank to undertake jointly a comprehensive and sectoral review of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos and to report thereon biennially with effect from 1992 to the Conference of Ministers of the Commission and, through it, to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity;

7. Expresses its appreciation to the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for hosting the expert group meeting and to the Organization of African Unity, the Commission and the African Development Bank for jointly organizing that meeting to review and appraise the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos.

275th meeting,
12 May 1991.

706 (XXVI). Proposed United Nations Population Fund technical support teams

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 671 A(XXV) of 29 April 1958 which established the Economic Commission for Africa and assigned to it, inter alia, the task of facilitating concerted action for the economic development of Africa, and maintaining and strengthening economic cooperation in the region (including its social aspects) with other regions,

Recalling the provisions of the General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 which defined the regional commissions as centres for general economic and social development in their respective regions, and mandated them to exercising team leadership and responsibility for coordination at the regional level,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 33/202 of 29 January 1979 which granted the regional commissions executing agency status in their own right,

Noting that the existing mandates and structures at subregional and regional levels for providing linkages across disciplines implement the intent of resolutions 32/197 and 33/202, so that any modification having an impact on the functions and structures of the regional commissions would conflict with this intention,

Recalling also its resolution 311 (XIII) of 1 March 1977 establishing the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres with the tasks of intensifying and diversifying international economic cooperation among the countries in the region, and, providing potential opportunities for sustainable economic development process in each country,

Taking note with satisfaction the efforts made by the Commission to establish the Centres whose structures have created institutions for decentralization at subregional level,

Mindful of General Assembly resolution 44/211 of 21 December 1989 on the comprehensive triennial review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system whose provisions have yet to be aligned with resolution 32/197 with regard to the role of regional commissions,

Noting the appreciation of member States for the services rendered by the Commission's regional advisers on population policy and in the areas of data collection, training, research and information dissemination,

Concerned that the proposed arrangements might result in proliferation of structures in the United Nations system, Aware that the suggested arrangements could have negative impact on integrated approaches to regional development,

Aware also that the United Nations, including its regional commissions, is still engaged in discussions with the Fund on the proposal for successor arrangements for agency support costs,

1. Appeals to the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme to consider the pre-eminence of the regional commissions in matters relating to regional cooperation, and resolve with United Nations Population Fund problems arising from the proposed arrangements; and thus

2. Recommends that in the interest of proper coordination and effective harmonization of the various population factors at the regional level and achieving cost effectiveness, the proposed United Nations Population Fund technical support teams correspond to the existing ECA/MULPOC subregional structures and appropriate role be defined for the Commission in the facilitation and coordination of the team which is in accordance with its mandate under the General Assembly resolution 32/197;

3. Calls upon the member States of the Commission who are members of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme to raise with the Council the importance of the above-mentioned recommendations and to urge it to take up this matter with United Nations Population Fund at the earliest opportunity.

275th meeting,
12 May 1991.

707 (XXVI). Strengthening population information infrastructures in support of population programmes in Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the provision of the Lagos Plan of Action for the socio-economic development of Africa, 1980-2000 and the Final Act of Lagos which indicated that population programmes aimed at improving the quality of life should be based on a true knowledge covering the most important social, economic and demographic factors, and noting its continuing relevance for addressing the development issues of the African region for the 1990s,

Recalling further the provisions of its resolution 506 (XIX) of 26 May 1984 on the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action and self-reliant development which, among other things, attached great importance to the Programme of Action and consequently appealed to the United Nations Population Fund and other donor agencies to help provide the resources needed for implementing the population programme in Africa,

Noting the prevailing favourable disposition towards population/development programmes and wishing to encourage more member States to formulate population policies and implement population/development integration programmes as a means to ensure a more balanced development planning for Africa,

Anxious that the African region should continue its efforts to develop and sustain indigenous structures and facilities to support its regional population programme whose eventual goal is to assist member States to create and maintain appropriate mechanisms for integrating population programmes into socio-economic development planning efforts, Noting the priorities specified in document E/ECA/CM.16/34 which it endorsed at its sixteenth meeting, 3/

Noting also the value of information, education and communication activities in developmental work in general, and in population programmes in particular as indicated in the Amsterdam Declaration of 1989 on the theme of "a better life for future generations",

Conscious of the deficient, and in some cases, non-existent population information infrastructures to support viable population programmes in the region,

Anxious to redress this unsatisfactory situation through the creation of population information knowledge bases and systems at national, subregional and regional levels which could support the existing population programmes by facilitating the dissemination of population data and information, stimulating national interest, and creating awareness of the population and development concerns of the region among policy-makers, programme/project officers, the media and the general public,

Aware of the efforts made by the POPIN-Africa project in contributing to information sharing in support of population and socio-economic development programmes in the region, and anxious that this work should continue to improve the flow of population information and data among member States,

1. Urges member States to create national information centres by developing structures, mechanisms and linkages which could facilitate the collection, processing and dissemination of national population information and data;

2. Urges further that member States should become more committed to and actively participate in the regional population information programme, thus contributing to efforts to improve the flow of population information and data in the African region in particular and the world as a whole;

3. Calls upon the United Nations Population Fund and other donor governments and agencies to further assist in strengthening POPIN-Africa to continue its operations to develop regional, subregional and national capacities for information sharing and for improving the flow of population information and data in the region;

4. Requests the Commission to take the necessary steps to mobilize the required resources to ensure the continued and uninterrupted implementation of the project and the overall population programme for Africa;

5. Expresses appreciation to:

(a) The United Nations Population Fund for the assistance provided to the Commission to implement its population programmes, projects and activities;

(b) The Canadian International Development Research Centre for the support granted; and

(c) The Rockefeller Foundation to some of the subregional and sectoral participating centres of the regional network (POPIN-Africa).

275th meeting,
12 May 1991.

3/ The identified five priority areas for the 1990s included: (a) socio-economic development and national population programmes, (b) studies on population dynamics, (c) integration of population variables and policies in developing planning, (d) data collection, training and research, and (e) information dissemination.

708 (XXVI). Acceleration of the economic integration process in Africa and the strengthening of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres

The Conference of Ministers,

Concerned with the slow process of economic integration at the subregional level as evidenced, inter alia, by the low level of the intra-subregional trade, the persistence of customs barriers between the member States,the non-existence of common external tariff and the absence of harmonized sectoral policies in the fields of agriculture, industry, transport, energy, trade and monetary affairs,

Recalling its resolution 611 (XXII) of 24 April 1987 on the acceleration of subregional economic integration in Africa and the new role of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres in this process,

Recalling also its resolution 702 (XXV) of 19 May 1990 on transforming and strengthening the Centres to enable them play an effective role in providing technical assistance to the economic integration process in Africa,

Noting with satisfaction the United Nations General Assembly's endorsement of the report of the Review Team that the structures, organization and operations of the Centres be transformed and strengthened,

Conscious that the United Nations Development Programme's earlier financial assistance to the Centres from 1977 to 1982 has made a significant impact on the economic integration process in Africa, further accelerated by the funding of multisectoral projects by the Programme during its Fourth Programming Cycle,

Noting further with satisfaction the progress achieved in the preparation of the treaty establishing the African Economic Community whose imminent signature will mark a historic milestone in the integration of Africa,

1. Appeals to member States of subregional economic communities to take appropriate measures for the acceleration of the subregional integration process, notably by endowing the subregional economic communities with self-financing mechanisms for the funding of their operational activities, and by ensuring the participation of all socio-economic groups in the economic integration activities;

2. Further appeals to member States to adopt effective measures towards the setting up of mechanisms for economic integration in each subregion to be in charge of harmonizing the activities of all economic groupings;

3. Invites member States to apply Community decisions on joint policies in priority sectors and, in particular, those regarding tariff and non-tariff barriers elimination, the adoption of a common external tariff and monetary integration;

4. Requests the United Nations Development Programme to provide during its Fifth Programming Cycle sufficient resources to support the economic integration process in Africa, in particular to fund activities in priority areas which were not properly covered during the Fourth Programming Cycle, and to sustain the promotion of those activities which were launched during the latter Cycle;

5. Further requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission, in close collaboration with the Organization of African Unity and the African Development Bank, to redouble his effort to explore ways and means to provide all necessary technical assistance to the future African Economic Community, in particular, the drafting of its protocols and the implementation of the first work programme of the Community;

6. Invites African non-governmental organizations to adopt concrete proposals aimed at accelerating the process of economic integration and developing the awareness of all strata of African society for the imperative of African economic and political integration;

7. Renews its appeal to the General Assembly for the funding of additional posts in the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres, both in professional and general service categories and the provision of additional financial resources;

8. Further renews its appeal to member States to continue their support to the Centres through specific contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development and by facilitating the secondment of their civil servants to the Centres on short-term assignment;

9. Endorses the new orientation of the work programme and priorities of the Centres as proposed by their respective Intergovernmental Committees of Experts;

10. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to take appropriate measures in collaboration with member States for the operationalization of the subregional development information systems, with priority being accorded to a reliable information system on the market for agricultural products, especially foodstuffs;

11. Further requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to:

(a) Establish the mandate and terms of reference of the Intergovernmental Committees of Experts for the effective implementation of the work charged to it under its resolution 702 (XXV);

(b) Draw up, in good time, the Centres' programme of work for circulation to member States to allow to prepare, in reasonable time, for the secondment of national civil servants;

Gisenyi Multinational Programming and Operational Centre

12. Requests the Gisenyi Centre and the Commission to assist the Great Lakes countries in implementing the provisions of the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes;

13. Requests also the Gisenyi Centre in collaboration with the secretariat of the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries to explore the possibility of organizing through funding from the Commission's extrabudgetary resources as soon as possible an expert group meeting on road transport to consider, inter alia, the following topics: road service taxation and road maintenance within the Community; Community integrated road network and Community road map; global approach to the opening up of CEPGL area and formulation of a CEPGL transport master plan;

Tangier Multinational Programming and Operational Centre

14. Requests the Commission to continue its assistance to the North African countries within the process of supporting the Arab Maghreb Union in its integration endeavours as well as to continue its assistance to the establishment of the Preferential Trade Area in North Africa;

15. Further requests the Commission to establish within the Tangier Centre adequate structures in order to enable the latter to provide support to the North African Transport Committee and to ensure proper follow-up to emigration issues;

16. Further requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to seek appropriate funds for providing the programme on the integration of women in development in North Africa with an established post;

Niamey Multinational Programming and Operational Centre

17. Invites the member States of the Economic Community of West African States to consider seriously the establishment of a subsidy system for agricultural inputs, particularly fertilizers, pesticides, equipment and machinery, and to rationalize their distribution so as to accelerate the modernization of the agricultural sector and ensure the increase of its productivity;

18. Requests the Niamey Centre to look into the possibility of organizing with the assistance from the Commission's extrabudgetary resources as soon as possible an Expert Group meeting to consider measures to be applied by the countries of the subregion in view of likely adverse effects of the European single market on their economies;

Yaounde Multinational Programming and Operational Centre

19. Invites the member States of the subregion to:

(a) Continue to accord integrated rural development top priority;

(b) Coordinate their efforts with a view to establishing a subregional food security plan;

(c) Cooperate in the production of agricultural inputs;

(d) Promote trade in agricultural products, especially foodstuffs; and

(e) Collaborate towards the gradual adoption and implementation of a common agricultural policy;

20. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to provide the member States of the subregion with the necessary assistance in elaborating a subregional industrial development master plan and of a subregional industrialization programme;

21. Invites member States and concerned international organizations, including the Commission and the United Nations Development Programme to provide support to the national coordinating committees for the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, to the Economic Community of Central African States and the Central African Customs and Economic Union to enable them to elaborate a coherent subregional programme and to implement it;

Lusaka Multinational Programming and Operational Centre

22. Calls upon States members of the subregion to designate focal point to facilitate data collection and for the preparation of country briefs;

23. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to:

(a) Continue to assist to the extent possible the Southern Africa Labour Commission in the provision of secretariat services, implementation of the Labour Commission's expanded programme for 1991-1995, in the servicing of a study tour to West Africa of women from the Labour Commission's member countries and in serving as the ad interim secretariat of the Labour Commission;

(b) Bring the problem of unemployment in Southern Africa to the attention of the Ad hoc Committee of the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity charged with responsibility for monitoring events in the subregion;

(c) Assist member States in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity, the International Labour Organisation and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the development and strengthening of human resources and social development including institutional development and human resources policy coordination.

275th meeting,
12 May 1991.

709 (XXVI). United Nations second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (1991-2000)

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling resolution 2 (IX) adopted at the ninth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry held from 29 May to 1 June 1989, concerning the proclamation of the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa and the preparation of a programme for the Decade,

Recalling resolution AHG/Res. 180 (XXV) of July 1989, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, requesting the proclamation of a second Decade and an African industrial day,

Recalling also resolution GC.3/10 of 23 November 1989, adopted at the third session of the General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization which also called for the proclamation by the forty-fourth regular session of the United Nations General Assembly of a second Industrial Development Decade for Africa,

Further recalling General Assembly resolution 44/237 of 22 December 1989 proclaiming 1991-2000 as the period of the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa and 20 November as African Industrial Day,

Taking note of the progress report on the preparation of the programme for the second United Nations Industrial Development Decade which described progress made in national, subregional and regional preparations as well as in meeting the schedule adopted by the ninth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry and subsequently approved by the forty-fourth regular session of the General Assembly,

1. Mandates the Conference of African Ministers of Industry whose tenth meeting will take place in June 1991 in Dakar, Senegal to submit to the General Assembly, at its forty-sixth regular session, through the Economic and Social Council, the programme for the second Decade currently being finalized, together with the recommendations concerning practical modalities of its implementation and monitoring and including modalities for the mobilization of funds needed to finance the programme at the national, subregional, regional and international levels;

2. Appeals to African countries and to African intergovernmental organizations, particularly financial institutions, to take the necessary measures to ensure the successful implementation of the programme for the second Decade and to give priority to the mobilization of their own financial resources for the implementation and monitoring of the second Decade programme;

3. Also appeals to the international community, particularly bilateral and multilateral funding institutions, to significantly increase their contributions to the industrial sector in African countries so as to ensure optimum implementation of the programme for the second Decade;

4. Recommends that the General Assembly of the United Nations should provide the Economic Commission for Africa with adequate resources to enable it to provide effective assistance to African countries and organizations in the implementation of the second Decade programme;

5. Also recommends that the policy organs of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization should significantly increase the Organization's regular budget resources allocated for the implementation of the second Decade programme;

6. Further appeals to the United Nations Development Programme to allocate, under its Fifth Cycle Regional Programme for Africa (1992-1996) adequate resources for supporting activities of the second Decade programme;

7. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to undertake, in cooperation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, follow-up actions for promoting national, subregional and regional activities in support of the second Decade programme and submit a report on the implementation of this resolution to the Conference at its next meeting.

275th meeting,
12 May 1991.

710 (XXVI). Second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.88/73, adopted at Kinshasa, Zaire, in March 1988, by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning, in which the appropriate United Nations bodies were requested to take appropriate measures to proclaim a second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa,

Recalling also its resolution 639 (XXIII) of 15 April 1988, Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/67 of 28 July 1988 and General Assembly resolution 43/179 of 20 December 1988 all proclaiming the period 1991-2000 as the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa,

Referring to resolutions ECA/UNTACDA/Res.89/75 and ECA/UNTACDA/Res.89/82 of 12 November 1989 adopted at Tangier, Morocco, by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning, which endorsed the goals, global and sectoral objectives, strategies and guidelines for the preparation of the programme of the second Decade and the establishment of priorities of the programme,

Further referring to resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.91/84 of 8 February 1991 adopted at Abuja, Nigeria, by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning, in relation to the second Decade,

Recognizing the fundamental role that road transport plays in regional integration within the objectives of the second Decade programme and the urgent need for harmonized and coordinated development of the subsector through the proposed reactivation of the Trans-African Highway Bureau,

Bearing in mind its resolutions 604 (XXII) of 24 April 1987 and 639 (XXIII) of 15 April 1988 and ECA/UNTACDA/Res.89/79 of November 1989 which all requested the Executive Secretary of the Commission to urgently reactivate the Trans-African Highway Bureau and to allocate adequate resources for its efficient functioning,

Having considered the report of the eighth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning held in Abuja, Nigeria, on 8 February 1991 and the report on the preparation of the programme of the second Decade, Taking note of the adoption of the second Decade programme and the decision on the reactivation of the Bureau made by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 8 May 1991,

Appreciating the work done by the national coordinating committees, the Resource Mobilization Committee, the Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee, subsectoral and subregional working groups in preparing the strategy and programme of the second Decade,

Noting with appreciation the contributions of the Commission, the Organization of African Unity, the African Development Bank, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, the regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations and the United Nations specialized agencies to the preparation of the second Decade programme,

Recognizing the important role incumbent on the national coordinating committees and the various African subregional and regional organizations during the implementation phase of the second Decade programme,

1. Adopts the programme of the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, 1991-2000;

2. Recommends the Decade programme to the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations General Assembly for approval;

3. Requests the Economic and Social Council to appeal to the General Assembly to:

(a) Formally launch the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa which was proclaimed in its resolution 43/179; and

(b) Provide the Commission with the necessary regular budget resources to enable it to effectively and efficiently carry out the responsibilities mandated to it as the lead agency of the Decade programme;

4. Appeals to all African Governments, as beneficiaries of the programme, to give every ıpport for the achievement of the objectives of the second Decade programme at national, subregional and regional levels by:

(a) Ensuring the establishment and proper functioning of the national coordinating committees;

(b) Participating in financing and implementing the national projects that are included in the programme; and

(c) Contributing to and cooperating effectively in the financing and implementation of subregional and regional Decade projects;

5. Requests the Commission, as lead agency, to ensure that adequate manpower and financial resources, regular and extrabudgetary, are allocated for harmonizing, coordinating and monitoring the organization and implementation of the Decade activities and other relevant projects which have been mandated to the Commission as lead agency;

6. Requests the United Nations Development Programme to continue to support the implementation of the programme at national, subregional and regional levels and in particular the activities of the lead agency in monitoring, evaluating, managing and reporting on the implementation of the Decade programme;

7. Appeals to the United Nations agencies and other international organizations to provide all the necessary technical and other assistance to African Governments and work very closely with the Commission, the Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee and African regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations in order to effectively implement the Second Decade programme and projects;

8. Appeals to individual international, African, regional and subregional financial institutions to ensure and facilitate the financing of national, subregional and regional Decade projects by giving adequate priority and special attention to the second Decade programme and projects in their respective lending activities in Africa, and to commit themselves actively and collectively, to mobilize adequate resources for the effective implementation of projects of the second Decade programme;

9. Requests the Commission to prepare draft statutes for the single bureau of the Trans-African Highway Authorities for adoption by member States;

10. Appeals to member States, associate members and non-members of the Authorities and their coordinating committees to honour their financial obligations to the bureau;

11. Further appeals to member States to review the statutes and regulations governing the Authorities in order to adapt them to the new operating structure of the trans-African highways;

12. Further appeals to donors and, in particular to the United Nations Development Programme, to assist in the financing of the extended programme of the single Bureau designed to assist member States in the implementation of the second Decade programme;

13. Requests the Resource Mobilization Committee of the second Decade to assist the Bureau in its efforts in the mobilization of resources for its operation;

14. Expresses its appreciation to the United Nations Development Programme for the efforts it made to provide assistance in order to enable African countries to properly prepare the second Decade programme;

15. Appeals to the Programme to provide the African countries with the technical assistance needed to coordinate the preparation and implementation of the programme at the national, subsectoral and subregional levels;

16. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to report to the Conference at its next meeting on the progress made in the implementation of this resolution.

275th meeting,
12 May 1991.

711 (XXVI). Revitalization of mining industries in Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

With reference to General Assembly resolution S-13/2 of 1 June 1986, Economic and Social Council resolutions 1989/8 and 1989/12, its resolution 602 (XXII) of 24 April 1987 and the recommendations of previous regional conferences on mineral resources development in Africa,

Cognizance of the deliberations and recommendations of the fourth Regional Conference on the Development and Utilization of Mineral Resources in Africa, held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from 18 to 27 March 1991, Noting that the Ouagadougou Conference emphasized the need to:

(a) Improve mining development policies of member States in order to strengthen subregional and regional cooperation, and increase the flow of investments into the African mining industry;

(b) Establish special mechanisms for the financing of the mining sector so as to increase the share of African financial institutions in mining investments;

(c) Improve the performance of artisanal and small-scale mining of precious and semi-precious minerals in order to enable member States to derive the best advantage therefrom; and

(d) Create an atmosphere propitious to the development of this sector, among mining concerns, investors and governments;

1. Requests the Commission to explore ways and means of financing, between now and the fifth Regional Conference on the Development and Utilization of Mineral Resources in Africa, planned for 1993, with the participation of the African Development Bank and the World Bank, and in collaboration with competent African intergovernmental agencies, a comparative study on mining development policies in Africa in order to recommend improvements in these policies at the national level and their coordination at the regional and subregional levels;

2. Invites the Commission to negotiate with the African Development Bank, the possibilities and modalities of establishing, within it, a special mechanism for mineral resource exploitation projects;

3. Requests the Commission to explore ways and means of financing a special study on present conditions (equipment, legislation, working conditions and environment) of artisanal and small-scale mining of precious and semi-precious minerals and to organize a seminar on such mining operations at which the results of the study will be considered;

4. Recommends that the Commission should find ways and means of financing the updating of the study on the proposed establishment of African associations of mining operators and related industries, by drawing on the experience of similar associations existing in other regions;

5. Invites member States to give every support to and participate fully in the implementation of recommendations of the Ouagadougou Conference;

6. Requests the United Nations Development Programme, which has excluded mining from the priority sectors of the fourth and fifth Programming Cycles, to reconsider its position by placing it among the priorities of the fifth Programming Cycle;

7. Makes an urgent appeal to donors and the United Nations specialized agencies (the World Bank, the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, etc.) to support the Commission in the execution of the tasks described above;

8. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to report to the Conference at its next meeting on the implementation of this resolution.

275th meeting,
12 May 1991.

712 (XXVI). *African participation in the preparation for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development*

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 44/228 of September 1989 on the decision for the United Nations to organize a Conference on Environment and Development in Brazil in June 1992 and which requests the regional commissions to play a leading role in the preparatory process for the Conference,

Having reviewed the report on the preparations of member States of the Commission for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to be held in Brazil in June 1992,

Considering the importance for and relevance of that Conference to be held at the level of Heads of State and Government, being the first Earth Summit for world development in general and the development of the African region in particular,

Aware that the 1992 Conference is part of a negotiating process for building global international cooperation through a global commitment to environmental management for sustainable social and economic development,

Convinced that these quests for sustainable development cannot be achieved without the necessary political commitment,

Determined to make the African preparatory process to the 1992 Conference a mobilization of the necessary national political, institutional and administrative mechanisms to secure full participation of all groups, both within and outside governments for a concerted action to ensure the integration of environment in economic development,

1. *Endorses* the contents of the report on the preparatory Conference activities;

2. *Urges* member States to actively participate in the negotiating process leading to the 1992 Conference, particularly in its six action areas;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Commission to continue, jointly with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, the preparation for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

4. *Urges* the agencies of the United Nations system to support the Commission in its effort in preparing the region for the 1992 Conference;

5. *Calls upon* the preparatory Conference in Cairo to explore all ways and means of ensuring full African participation in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Brazil;

6. *Invites* the member States present at the preparatory Conference in Cairo to ensure that Africa's interests are fully taken into account in the final decisions that will be adopted in Brazil in 1992;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Commission to report to the Conference at its next meeting on the implementation of this resolution.

275th meeting,
12 May 1991.

713 (XXVI). The African social situation

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 602 (XXII) of 24 April 1987 on the African social situation which, inter alia, calls upon member States to give high priority in their national development plans, to social development policies and programmes,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/46 of 24 May 1989, in which the United Nations Secretary-General was requested, in consultation with relevant organizations based in Africa, to prepare a report on the critical social situation in Africa, paying particular attention to the obstacles to the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990,

Bearing in mind the recommendations of the fifth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs, held in Arusha, the United Republic of Tanzania, on 27 and 28 October 1989,

Taking note of the African Charter for Social Action adopted by the fifth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs and endorsed by the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 691 (XXV) of 19 May 1990 adopting the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation as an important instrument for the realization of the social objectives of equity, participation and social justice for all population groups, namely youth, women, the disabled, the elderly, the family, and refugees and displaced persons,

Taking into account its resolution 642 (XXIII) of 15 April 1988 establishing the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, to assist member States in the development and implementation of social policies and programmes aimed at addressing the issues of crime prevention and criminal justice and illicit drug trafficking and drug abuse,

Noting with grave concern that one of the pressing social issues currently facing the continent is the increasing rates of criminality and juvenile delinquency, including new forms, such as illicit drug trafficking and drug abuse, once non-existent in the region, exerting high social and economic costs on governments and the population in general,

Concerned that orthodox structural adjustment programmes requiring measures such as drastic cuts in public expenditures, massive and persistent devaluations have had adverse effects on critical social sectors including health, education, employment, household income, and levels of nutrition,

Convinced that Africa's sustained development and transformation requires an integrated approach and an effective interplay between economic considerations and social dimensions as articulated in the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-economic Recovery and Transformation, the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development and the Khartoum Declaration,

1. Calls upon African Governments, the Commission, United Nations agencies, relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the region, to give priority to and intensify their efforts in the development and implementation of effective policies and measures in social development, including analyses of the impact of structural adjustment measures, as an integral part of their overall development efforts and programmes, with special attention to the following issues:

(a) Education and training, the accelerated brain drain, health, employment, nutrition, housing, water and sanitation;

(b) The vulnerable population groups, namely youth, women, disabled persons, the elderly, the family and refugees and displaced persons;

(c) Crime prevention and criminal justice and the control of illicit drug trafficking and drug abuse;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to continue to monitor and review the social situation in the region, including the impact of structural adjustment policies, in cooperation with relevant institutions/organizations in the region, and to report to the Conference on a yearly basis;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to develop appropriate strategies to revitalize the social development programme of the secretariat of the Commission so that it could be more responsive to the needs of member States and thus be able to provide them with the necessary support in the formulation and implementation of policies and measures in social development in the above-mentioned fields;

4. Invites all African Governments, specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, to make all efforts in preparation and observance of the International Year of the Family, as proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly, in resolution 44/82 of 8 December 1989, at the grassroots, national and regional levels, with a view to creating greater awareness of the African family as the pillar and fundamental unit of society;

5. Stresses the importance of the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders in assisting member States in the formulation of relevant policies and programmes in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice and in the control of illicit drug trafficking and drug abuse, including the promotion of regional and international cooperation;

6. Calls upon African Governments which have not done so to sign the Statute of the Institute and appeals once again to member States of the Institute to honour their financial obligations to enable the Institute to fulfil the objectives for which it was established;

7. Acknowledges with appreciation the financial assistance provided in the field of social development, by funding agencies, particularly the United Nations Development Programme, which has provided funds to the Institute and appeals to the Programme, other bilateral and multilateral institutions and donors, to increase their technical and financial support to the Institute to enable it to fulfil its mandates.

275th meeting,
12 May 1991.

714 (XXVI). Women in development

The Conference of Ministers,

Considering its resolution 684 (XXV) of 19 May 1990 which urged member States to fully implement the recommendations of the Abuja Declaration on Participatory Development: The Role of Women in Africa in 1990s,

Considering that elections at subregional level, for membership of the Africa Regional Coordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development, have not taken place in the last two years,

Having considered the document on the situation of African women in the agricultural and industrial sectors and the changes that must take place within the context of the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes,

1. Appeals to member States to establish national machineries for women, where they do not exist, to promote the advancement of women;

2. Urges member States to intensify their efforts to implement the recommendations of the Abuja Declaration by channelling human and financial resources to national machineries responsible for women's concerns and monitor the attainment of targets of the Declaration;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to hold subregional Committee meetings at the level of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres for officials responsible for women's concerns before 31 December 1991 to (a) consider progress made in the implementation of the Abuja Declaration; (b) hold election for membership of the Africa Regional Coordinating Committee; and (c) hold briefings on women's situation in the context of the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes;

4. Requests member States, in line with its resolution 684 (XXV), to facilitate the participation of their countries in the above-mentioned subregional committee meetings at Multinational Programming and Operational Centre level.

275th meeting,
12 May 1991.

715 (XXVI). Improvement of the status of women in the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 44/75 of 8 December 1989 and 44/185 of 19 December 1989 on improving the status of women in the secretariat,

Having considered General Assembly resolution 40/105 of December 1985 calling on regional commissions to incorporate women's concerns in their overall programmes,

Concerned that inadequate staff are allocated to the regional and subregional offices of the Commission responsible for women's programmes,

1. Commends the Executive Secretary for having taken steps to increase the representation of women professionals in the secretariat and urges him to redouble his efforts to attain and possibly exceed the 35 per cent target requested by the General Assembly by 1995;

2. Calls upon the Executive Secretary to ensure that appropriate and adequate representation of women is obtained as well as the incorporation of the women's concerns in all programmes of the Commission;

3. Urges the Executive Secretary to explore possibility of: (a) increasing the number of women at decision-making levels, and (b) allocating additional staff to the African Training and Research Centre for Women and at the level of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres to strengthen the programmes for women.

275th meeting,
12 May 1991.

716 (XXVI). Implementing an integrated approach to development information

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 498 (XIX) of 26 May 1984 on the Pan-African Documentation and Information System in Africa,

Recalling also its resolution 600 (XXII) of 24 April 1987 on information systems development in Africa,

Recalling further its resolution 658 (XXIV) of 7 April 1989 on strengthening information systems in Africa,

Bearing in mind its resolution 679 (XXV) of 19 May 1990 on improving information flows in Africa,

Noting with satisfaction the direction of the Pan-African Documentation and Information System for 1992-1997 for an integrated approach to development information as spelled out in document ECA/PADIS/RTC/7 "Adaptation of the Pan-African Documentation and Information System to changing needs",

Expressing appreciation for the continued efforts of the Commission to further strengthen and consolidate the Pan-African Documentation and Information System,

Noting with appreciation the efforts made by the United Nations Development Programme and the Commission to ensure adequate funding for the Pan-African Documentation and Information System during the year 1991,

Noting with satisfaction the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Report of the United Nations Development Programme In-depth Evaluation of the Pan-African Documentation and Information System (1990),

Further noting with satisfaction the preparedness of the United Nations Development Programme to consider financing the Pan-African Documentation and Information System through its fifth Regional Programming Cycle for Africa (1992-1997),

Cognizant of the need for enhancing collaboration between the Commission, the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the elaboration of communications programmes,

1. Calls upon member States of the Commission to actively support and sustain PADIS' leadership role in the region in the coordination of development information, the promotion of national, subregional and regional information linkages, the promotion of information networking and the facilitation of the exchange of development information, within the context of African economic integration and an African Economic Community;

2. Urges member States, the funding agencies of the United Nations system and other donor agencies to strengthen their financial support of the Pan-African Documentation and Information System, with particular attention to its subregional centres;

3. Requests the United Nations Development Programme to consider the funding of the activities of the Pan-African Documentation and Information System under its fifth Regional Programming Cycle for Africa commensurate with its expansion of operational activities;

4. Strongly urges member States to consider the inclusion of projects on the development of information needs for funding from the Programme under the fifth Regional Programming Cycle with a view to establishing the desirable linkages between national, subregional and regional activities and thereby strengthen the overall impact of the Pan-African Documentation and Information System;

5. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to intensify his efforts to fund core posts for the Pan-African Documentation and Information System from the regular budget;

6. Calls for the rapid convening of a meeting between the Pan-African Documentation and Information System and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, within the framework and programme of work for 1991 of the UNESCO/ECA Joint Concertation Meeting and with the participation of the Organization of African Unity to develop collaboration in the area of communications.

275th meeting,
12 May 1991.

717 (XXVI). Programme of work and priorities of the Economic Commission for Africa for 1992-1993

The Conference of Ministers,

Having examined Africa's past and present socio-economic development problems and the challenges facing Africa in the 1990's and beyond,

Bearing in mind that Africa accounts for a great number of the least developed countries of the world and that the present economic and social crisis had further weakened the region's capacity to cope up with its own economic growth and development,

Realizing that there is need for strengthening regional and subregional cooperation through joint and coordinated efforts to solving the grave economic situation facing Africa,

Having examined the proposed programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1992-1993, 4/

Bearing in mind that this is the first programme of work based on the 1992-1997 Medium-term Plan,

5/

Taking note of the fact that in his submission of the proposed programme budget, the Secretary-General of the United Nations would include proposals for a programme on Africa's critical economic situation, recovery and development as contained in the Medium-Term-Plan, 1992-1997,

Convinced that the proposed programme of work can make significant contribution to Africa's development effort,

Noting with satisfaction the positive response of the General Assembly to the recommendations of the Review Team on the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres which concluded, inter alia, that the structures, organization and operation of each Centre should be transformed and strengthened to make it more operational and effective in providing relevant services to member States of its subregion,

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4/ E/ECA/CM.17/25/Rev.1.

5/ A/45/6/Rev.1.

1. Endorses the work programme and priorities of the Commission for the biennium 1992-1993 as contained in document E/ECA/CM.17/25/Rev.1;

2. Urges the Secretary-General of the United Nations in his submission to the Committee for Programming and Coordination to give special consideration to the Economic Commission for Africa in providing it with adequate resources to enable it to implement fully its work programme particularly by making available more regular budget posts, increased allocation for travel and consultancy services for the Commission's five subregional Multinational Programming and Operational Centres, the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning and the Pan-African Documentation and Information System;

3. Urges also the Secretary-General in his submission to the General Assembly to stress the need to make available adequate posts and financial resources at the Commission to enable it to undertake those responsibilities assigned to it under the programme on Africa's critical economic situation, recovery and development;

4. Calls upon the Committee for Programming and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to support and consider favourably these proposals for making available adequate resources to the Commission under programmes 30 and 45 at its forthcoming session.

275th meeting,
12 May 1991.

718 (XXVI). Revitalization of the mandate and operational framework of the regional commission for Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations Systems and in particular section IV of the same resolution on structures for regional and interregional cooperation,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 33/202 of 29 January 1979 legislating, inter alia, that the regional commissions should have the status of executing agencies in their own right, for regional, subregional and interregional projects that were of an intersectoral character or were in areas that did not fall within the purview of specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 44/211 of 21 December 1989 on operational activities for development,

Recognizing that the afore-mentioned resolutions and related instruments have paved the way for and continue to sustain the process of decentralization of the United Nations system with a view to rendering its activities more relevant to the particular requirements of the developing countries as well as more efficient and cost-effective,

Conscious of the high responsibilities carried out in this context by the regional commissions, who are called upon to catalyze, coordinate and develop policies and operational frameworks aimed at meeting the specific developmental requirements of their regions,

Acknowledging the indisputable central role played by the regional commission for Africa since its establishment in 1958 in furthering individual and collective policy objectives and translating them into integrated self-reliant strategies, such as the Lagos Plan of Action and Final Act of Lagos, Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes and the Khartoum and Abuja Declarations, which have contributed to Africa's development goals of the 1990 and furthered concepts of cooperation among the African countries themselves, the African countries and the international community at large and the United Nations system in particular,

Convinced that Africa's future development lies in the arduous pursuit of regional and subregional socio-economic integration and ultimate establishment of the African Economic Community, and as a consequence, enhanced integrated multidisciplinary approaches to development aimed at long-term structural transformation of its economies,

Concerned that the original mandate of the regional commissions has been placed in question and that the decentralization process launched in the 1970s and that the inherent focus on the regional dimensions of development has been greatly reversed,

Concerned in particular at the far-reaching consequences emerging from discussions on resolution 44/211, which though it has stressed the need for multidisciplinary integrated approaches to development, has left open the contributions and great potential of the regional commissions in this area,

Noting with appreciation the joint position taken by the regional commissions on the follow-up of resolution 44/211 essentially aimed at restoring the regional dimensions within the United Nations system coordinating bodies such as the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Operational Activities) and the Advisory Committee on Coordination, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly,

Looking forward with interest to the study on the regional dimensions to be carried out under the aegis of the Director General for Development and International Cooperation in consultation with the regional commissions and the United Nations agencies, for inclusion in his 1991 annual report to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on the follow-up of implementation of resolution 44/211,

1. Commends the Executive Secretary of the Commission for the initiatives he has taken to establish within existing resources a Multidisciplinary Advisory Group to:

(a) Assist African countries to translate regionally agreed policies into practical strategies and programmes;

(b) Provide multisectoral analyses of African needs in the priority areas, and time-bound strategies for achieving the objectives contained in those priorities,

(c) Develop in the member States and subregional economic communities annual programmes of multidisciplinary technical assistance; and

(d) Provide multidisciplinary technical assistance teams to African countries based on those programmes;

2. Calls upon the Secretary General of the United Nations to launch a comprehensive process of reviewing and updating of the legislative framework of the regional commissions with a view to:

(a) Defining unambiguously and explicitly their present role and functions, and enforcing their original mandates in such a way as to correspond to regional development objectives and requirements;

(b) Providing them with a new legislative framework which complements United Nations General Assembly resolutions on operational activities for development, and defines their operational and organizational objectives and requirements at the regional levels; and

(c) Reviewing in relation to (a) and (b) above the funding mechanisms of the regional commissions and exploring ways and means to improve existing institutional arrangements, including the establishment of a separate global pledging arrangement for funding of regional cooperation activities;

3. Invites the Director General for Development and International Cooperation to consider the convening of an ad hoc group meeting of high-level experts drawn from the respective regions during the second half of 1991 to discuss the revision of the mandate of the regional commissions and thus provide an intellectual input into the current process of restructuring and decentralizing United Nations assistance to the countries of the region;

4. Urges the agencies of the United Nations system and of the United Nations secretariat involved in technical assistance to decentralize staff and establish joint units, sections and divisions with the secretariats of the regional commissions;

5. Appeals to member States to give due consideration to the regional dimension in their national development plans and ensure that its multidisciplinary implications be comprehensively addressed in those country programming exercises to be funded from national indicative planning figures (IPF).

275th meeting,
12 May 1991.

719 (XXVI). Contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development

The Conference of Ministers,

Having considered the reports on pledges and actual disbursements made by member countries and the progress achieved in project implementation and spending of United Nations Trust Fund for African Development Fund funds,

Conscious of the socio-economic and financial difficulties facing most African countries,

Recalling its resolution 615 (XXII) of 24 April 1987 inviting African member States and financial institutions which had not yet pledged contributions to the Fund to do so and those which had pledged contributions to pay them in as soon as possible,

Aware of the fact that the resources pledged to the Fund can contribute to solving the critical economic and social problems that African countries are experiencing,

1. Invites African member States and the international community to contribute more generously to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development;

2. Urges those countries and institutions which have yet to pay in their arrears of contributions to do so as soon as possible;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to spare no effort in securing further contributions to the Fund.

275th meeting,
12 May 1991.

720 (XXVI). The United Nations Development Programme Fifth Inter-Country Programme for Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Having considered the Orientation Paper for the United Nations Development Programme Fifth Inter-Country Programme for Africa (1992-1996),

Noting with satisfaction that the Orientation Paper reflects Africa's socio-economic priorities as spelt out in the Lagos Plan of Action, the Final Act of Lagos, Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990, the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes and the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation,

Noting with concern the increasing deterioration of African economies and the declining pattern of financial flows to Africa in recent years,

1. Endorses the Orientation Paper for the United Nations Development Programme Fifth Inter-country Programme for Africa (1992-1996) and at the same time expresses concern in the reduction of resources to Africa;

2. Agrees to convene an extraordinary meeting of the Conference of Ministers of Economic Development and Planning in December 1991 to consider the Fifth Inter-Country Programme for Africa;

3. Urges the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme to consider increasing the resources in the Fifth Inter-Country Programme for Africa at least to the level of that in the Fourth Inter-Country Programme;

4. Call upon the Administrator of the Programme to mobilize additional resources other than those of the Programme itself, which would supplement the Fifth Inter-Country Programme for Africa;

5. Requests the continuation, strengthening and consolidation of the coordination between the United Nations Development Programme's Regional Bureau for Africa and its Regional Bureau for Arab States and European Programmes for the maximum benefit of the people of Africa.

275th meeting,
12 May 1991.

721 (XXVI). The International Fund for Agricultural Development's Special Programme for Sub-Saharan African Countries affected by Drought and Desertification

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling resolutions CM/Res. 1060 (XLIV) and CM/Res. 1119 (XLVI) adopted respectively at the forty-fourth and forty-sixth sessions of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity on the International Fund for Agricultural Development's Special Programme for Sub-Saharan African Countries affected by Drought and Desertification,

Bearing in mind the United Nations General Assembly resolution S-13/2 of 1 June 1986 and particularly the stipulation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 in which the African countries and the international community committed themselves, inter alia, to giving priority attention and increasing resources to the rehabilitation and development of food and agriculture in Africa, Further recalling the mandate given to the President of the Fund by the Governing Council at its thirteenth session held in January 1990 to consult donors on the mobilization of additional resources for the Fund's Special Programme for Sub-Saharan African Countries affected by Drought and Desertification to continue in a second phase,

Bearing in mind also United Nations General Assembly resolution 45/207 on food and agricultural problems where it, inter alia, "invites donors to endorse the Governing Council of the International Fund for Agricultural Development resolution 60/XIII about the possibility of additional voluntary contributions to the special resources for sub-Saharan Africa for a further three years, starting in January 1991, without prejudicing deliberations on the mobilization of core funding for the International Fund for Agricultural Development resources",

Noting with satisfaction the excellent and growing cooperation between the Commission and the Fund, and the positive contribution made by the Fund to the economic recovery programmes of its member developing countries and its increased assistance to the African region in line with the stipulation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development and particularly through its Special Programme for Sub-Saharan African Countries affected by Drought and Desertification,

Concerned by the continued deterioration in the socio-economic conditions in Africa,

1. Stresses the importance of the link between the social and economic development in Africa and the national management of the environment;

2. Commends the International Fund for Agricultural Development's interventions under the Special Programme which have been focusing on improving food security through environmental conservation and the rehabilitation of existing productive capacity and ensuring the sustainability of benefits in the post-project period;

3. Emphasizes the urgent need for a continuous, predictable and uninterrupted flow of resources to Africa for recovery and development, particularly for agriculture, and to meet the urgent need of combating drought and for economic reforms, and the need for continuous and enhanced cooperation between the Commission and the Fund in the interest of African economic recovery and development with transformation;

4. Expresses its appreciation to those donor countries which have already made firm pledges or have indicated their intent to make contributions to the second phase of the Fund's Special Programme covering the period 1991-1993;

5. Appeals to the international donor community to make all efforts to augment the resources of the second phase of the Special Programme in order to achieve the target of $US 300 million needed over a period of three years beginning in 1991.

275th meeting,
12 May 1991.

722 (XXVI). Vote of appreciation and thanks to Professor Adebayo Adedeji, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Noting with deep regret the decision of Professor Adebayo Adedeji to resign his appointment as United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, Conscious of the exemplary leadership demonstrated by him for over 16 years at the helm of affairs of the Commission, having given a unique sense of direction to the Commission and succeeded in projecting Africa's own perceptions of its problems and needs to the world community through his outstanding capacity for lucidity and courage in actions and deeds,

Recognizing that he imparted to the work of the Commission an intellectual orientation of the highest level, enabling him to initiate coherent policies and strategies, thus giving ECA enhanced credibility, leading not only to unreserved support from its members States but also to the respect of the entire United Nations family,

Cognizant of his numerous contributions to the cause of African development during his tenure as Executive Secretary of the Commission, including, inter alia, (a) the elaboration of major development strategies and programmes such as the Lagos Plan of Action, Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, Africa's Submission to the General Assembly on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa and the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes; (b) the promotion of regional and subregional cooperation and integration of African countries by spearheading the establishment of the Economic Community of West African States, the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States and the Economic Community of Central African States; (c) the launching of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa and the United Nations Transport and Communications Decades in Africa; (d) the establishment of ECA-sponsored regional and subregional institutions active in the fields of science, technology and economic and social development; (e) the decentralization of the Commission's activities to the five subregions through its Multinational Programming and Operational Centres; the strengthening of the Commission's operational capacity through cooperation with the United Nations partners; (f) and the promotion of women in development through the establishment of the African Training and Research Centre for Women,

Recognizing his commitment and devotion to Africa's major ideals and his tireless championing and defence of the continent's cause in the world,

1. Expresses to him its highest appreciation for his foresight and dynamic leadership during his tenure as Executive Secretary of the Commission;

2. Expresses further to him its gratitude for his decisive role in the elaboration of what became Africa's own collective perceptions and strategies for socio-economic development; and for laying the foundation for regional and subregional cooperation through the instruments which he helped to develop and the institutions and organizations he established;

3. Wholeheartedly wishes him an even more productive and rewarding future, certain that he will continue to be at the forefront of the battle for African development and progress;

4. Mandates the Chairman of the Conference to transmit this vote of appreciation and thanks to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

275th meeting,
12 May 1991.

723 (XXVI). Vote of thanks to Mr. Mbatkam Tchouta-Moussa, Deputy Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Having taken note of the decision of the Government of Cameroon recalling him to his country to assume new and high responsibilities, Aware of his invaluable contribution to the Commission for 14 years, first as Director of the Transport, Communications and Tourism Division and then as Deputy Executive Secretary,

Aware also of the important role he played in the work of the Commission, particularly in his capacity as Chief of the Transport, Communications, and Tourism Division during which he made important contributions to the Commission's activities under the first United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, and as coordinator of the Pan-African Development Information System, the African Training and Research Centre for Women, multisectoral programme activities, the Commission's Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Matters as well as the Information and Security Services,

1. Expresses its profound gratitude for his invaluable contribution to the work of the Commission during his many years of service;

2. Wishes him every success in the discharge of his new and high responsibilities;

3. Requests the Chairman of the Conference to transmit this vote of thanks to the Government of the Republic of Cameroon and to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

275th meeting,
12 May 1991.

724 (XXVI). Persian Gulf crisis Compensation Fund

The Conference of Ministers,

Noting with great concern that the Persian Gulf crisis had serious consequences on many countries, including African countries,

Noting also that the impact of the crisis was even more devastating to the already weak African countries,

Noting in particular that these African countries suffered from additional oil import bills to the tune of $US 2.7 billion arising from international increases in oil prices, uncertainties in energy supply, high domestic prices in the energy sector and related sectors such as food and agriculture with special reference to food security, environment, tourism, and transport, etc.,

Noting that the African countries resorted to short-term borrowing thereby worsening their debt crisis,

Aware that a Compensation Fund was set up by the United Nations General Assembly to alleviate the adverse consequences of the Persian Gulf war,

Bearing in mind that the above Compensation Fund does not cover African countries,

1. Requests the General Assembly to extend the mandate of the Compensation Fund so as to make the African countries who also suffered from the consequences of the war eligible for relief and compensation from the Fund;

2. Further requests that the General Assembly, as an alternative, considers the establishment of a separate Compensation Fund for Africa in order to alleviate the plight of the African countries whose economies were adversely affected by the Persian Gulf crisis;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Commission to take immediate steps to bring this resolution to the attention of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and inform the Chairman of this seventeenth Conference of Ministers of Economic Development and Planning of the response of the Secretary-General regarding this resolution;

4. *Requests* the Chairman of this Conference to appraise member States of the response of the Secretary-General.

276th meeting,
13 May 1991.

725 (XXVI). *Choice of the name "Adebayo Adedeji Conference Centre" for the new conference centre of the Economic Commission for Africa*

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its vote of appreciation and thanks to Professor Adebayo Adedeji on the occasion of his retirement from his functions as United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa,

Appreciative of the numerous contributions he has made to the Commission and to the economic and social development of Africa,

Bearing in mind the impact and impression that his work has left on the Commission and its member States through his relentless efforts to establish policies and strategies for Africa, with a view to the political and socio-economic integration of the continent,

Decides to name the new conference centre of the Commission "Adebayo Adedeji Conference Centre".

276th meeting,
13 May 1991.

Annex I

MEMORANDUM BY THE ECA CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS TO THE AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE FINAL REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR AFRICAN ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT, 1986-1990 (UN-PAAERD)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. With the coming to an end of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 (UN-PAAERD), we, the African Ministers Responsible for Economic Development and Planning wish, as decided in ECA Conference of Ministers resolution 698 (XXV), to present herewith to the Ad hoc Committee of the Whole of the United Nations General Assembly on the final review of UN-PAAERD our collective assessment of the implementation of the Programme of Action and the measures that are needed to achieve sustained and sustainable growth and development in Africa in the years to come.

2. When our Heads of State and Government called, at their twenty-first session held in July 1985, for the convening of a special session of the General Assembly to deal with the critical economic situation in Africa, it was because of the extreme gravity of the socio-economic situation in our continent and the conviction that the causes for this crisis transcended the boundaries of our continent. Hence, the need for a partnership between Africa and the international community to undertake mutually reinforcing actions to overcome the crisis and set the continent on the road to recovery and development.

3. Africa's Submission to the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Africa's Economic and Social Crisis, which the OAU and ECA jointly prepared and submitted to the Ad hoc Committee of the Whole and the General Assembly, delineated the actions that needed to be taken by both Africa and the international community to turn a continent beleaguered by socio-economic crisis into a viable socio-economic entity. In that context, the submission reaffirmed our total commitment and primary responsibility for the development of our continent; the determination to implement Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990 (APPER); and reiterated our continued full commitment to the basic principles and long-term objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos.

4. We saw the first special session ever to be devoted to the problems of a single region as a truly unique opportunity to focus the attention of the world on the plight of Africa and to establish the political foundation and consensus for concerted global action in support of our continent.

5. All concerned came to recognize the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 (UN-PAAERD) as a novel compact between Africa and the international community, embodying mutually reinforcing commitments. We Africans committed ourselves to providing the necessary framework for launching long-term programmes for self-sustaining socio-economic growth and development and the international community, on its part, committed itself to assisting Africa to achieve this objective.

6. We recall the results of the mid-term review of UN-PAAERD by the United Nations General Assembly, in particular the following conclusions:

> "The reform and restructuring that are being undertaken by African countries and the ongoing initiatives taken by the international community thus constitute an important beginning. However, the overall performance of the African economies remains unsatisfactory. Despite earnest efforts to carry out adjustments in their national economic policies, most African countries have found little reprieve from the harsh impact of climatic conditions and an unfavourable external economic environment. Internal constraints, and

> the adverse impact of exogenous factors to which African economies are highly susceptible, are impeding the reform process and are severely hampering African development. Dealing with the African crisis is a priority concern for the international community and the United Nations. It is therefore a matter of urgency that the promising actions that have been taken by all parties concerned to implement the Programme of Action should be strengthened and accelerated. Sustained and unfaltering efforts made by African countries must be matched by substantial and urgent efforts by the international community to provide support to them at the required levels and to create an international environment favourable to the process of reform and restructuring."

7. We have also taken note of the decennial review and appraisal of the Lagos Plan of Action and Final Act of Lagos as contained in document E/ECA/CM.17/4.

8. The forthcoming final review and appraisal of the implementation of UN-PAAERD by the General Assembly of the United Nations and its Ad hoc Committee of the Whole does provide a unique opportunity for a frank, sober and objective assessment of the achievements of the Programme of Action and the implications of those results for future action in support of Africa.

9. With the unanimous adoption of UN-PAAERD, we certainly held the hope that this compact would usher in a new era of international cooperation in which both Africa and the international community would work together to fulfil their respective commitment as embodied in the Programme of Action.

10. Unfortunately, we cannot but conclude that at the end of this five-year period, Africa's socio-economic condition remains precarious and that the results of the Programme of Action fell far below expectations. The socio-economic conditions as well as the purchasing power of the African people have continued to worsen and the Programme of Action has not contributed sufficiently in redressing this situation. It is this sober recognition which guided us in formulating this special Memorandum.

11. It is because of this concern that we decided, at our sixteenth meeting held in Tripoli in May 1990, to submit a special Memorandum to the Ad hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly of the United Nations on the final review and appraisal of UN-PAAERD. The following pages of our special Memorandum contain our candid assessment of UN-PAAERD and the tasks that need to be tackled in the 1990s.

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF UN-PAAERD

1. African efforts

12. We committed ourselves, in UN-PAAERD, to providing the necessary framework for launching long-term sustainable socio-economic development and growth by implementing the policies and priorities of APPER. These include: agricultural development; the rehabilitation and development of sectors in support of agriculture; measures to combat drought and desertification; the development of human resources; and policy reforms. These policy reforms include: improving the management of the economy; implementing other policy measures through which "short-term adjustment measures should give way to the medium-term and long-term structural transformation"; adoption of appropriate national population policies; and encouraging the participation of people, especially women, in development.

13. For a realistic assessment of UN-PAAERD, it is important to state at the outset that the implementation of UN-PAAERD priorities overlapped with the implementation of structural adjustment programmes (SAPs) by over two thirds of our countries. In this regard, we wish to reiterate the conclusions of the United Nations General Assembly at the mid-term review of UN-PAAERD: "Structural adjustment programmes should be designed in such a way as to mitigate their adverse socio-economic effects, ensure that the human dimension is integrated in them, further improve the well-being of the poor and disadvantaged

in African societies, notably through redirecting social and developmental expenditures, and make short-term stabilization and adjustment measures compatible with and built into long-term structural transformation".

14. Bearing that fact in mind, we are convinced that on the whole we undertook commendable efforts to implement policy reforms and structural adjustment programmes and also to respond positively to some of the priority sectors of UN-PAAERD. Returns from the survey which ECA administered in our countries, and assessment by other sources do clearly demonstrate a clear commitment and a greater effort on our part to implement economic reforms and adjustment programmes.

15. We accorded high importance to UN-PAAERD's four sectoral priorities. Special emphasis was given to the food and agriculture sector. Greater resources were channelled to the agricultural sector to the extent that the target of allocating 20 to 25 per cent of public investment was achieved in many countries. Efforts to expand agricultural production have also been made through measures such as encouraging investment in agriculture by both the public and private sectors, increasing incentives to farmers, including remunerative producer prices and measures to restore, protect and develop arable land, etc. We also took immediate measures to avoid having recourse to food emergency.

16. Regrettably, this commitment on our part to emphasize the food and agricultural sector has, for a variety of reasons, not translated into a significant degree of food security, and the rise in agricultural production certainly fell short of our expectations and was not sufficient to stop the decline of per capita agricultural production.

17. Emphasis has also been placed on the development and rehabilitation of agro-related industries and production of factor inputs, taking into account the first United Nations Industrial Development Decade for Africa, 1980-1990; the rehabilitation and development of transport and communications infrastructure, taking also into account the first United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, 1978-1988; combating drought and desertification; improving educational and training facilities; increasing employment opportunities for women and rural youth; and encouraging popular participation in development in general.

18. The overwhelming majority of our countries implemented policy reforms along UN-PAAERD lines as well as structural adjustment programmes, the latter often at great economic and social cost as well as political risks.

19. Within the framework of the improvement of the management of the economy, the majority of our countries pursued policies aimed at improving public management systems institutions and practices; improving the performance of public enterprises; reforming the public services to make them more development-oriented; and improving financial management, fiscal administration and control of public expenditure.

20. Explicit or implicit national population policies were adopted by over three quarters of African countries. Efforts have been made to enhance the participation of the people in development, develop indigenous entrepreneurial capabilities, support grass-roots development initiatives and involve women more actively in development.

21. Indeed, significant change towards the democratization of political and economic life and consolidation of the democratic process, affecting no less than 30 of our countries, was under way towards the latter part of the UN-PAAERD period. The Arusha International Conference on Popular Participation in Development, the Charter of which was subsequently adopted by the ECA Conference of Ministers and the OAU Summit of Heads of State and Government and endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly, represents an important watershed in the emerging consensus emanating from within our continent on the need for a more effective process of popular participation in development and the democratization of economic and political life.

22. UN-PAAERD's policy reform measures demanding that "in the coming years, short-term adjustment measures should give way to the medium-term and long-term structural transformation" were not always implemented as envisaged. Structural adjustment programmes were dominant throughout the UN-PAAERD period.

23. We are convinced that these programmes (SAPs) were not sufficient for the attainment of the objectives of structural transformation and long-term development. Moreover, their human and social costs have been high and their benefits have become more and more elusive. Indeed, some of SAPs instruments - such as repeated devaluation, across-the-board liberalization of the economy and high nominal interest rates - have actually undermined long-term growth prospects by fuelling inflation, discouraging domestic production and diverting savings to speculative activities. These conclusions have furthermore been testified to by the conclusions of many independent studies and the findings of major international conferences such as the Abuja International Conference on the Challenge of Economic Recovery and Accelerated Development and the Khartoum International Conference on the Human Dimension of Africa's Economic Recovery and Development.

24. We also took actions to implement UN-PAAERD's priorities at the subregional and regional levels within the framework of our intergovernmental subregional and regional organizations and institutions. We wish to cite here, only by way of example, the collective actions we have taken towards the establishment of regional networks for crop protection and mechanisms for cooperation among national early warning systems, as well as towards the reduction of dependence on non-African experts. The Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS), in which over 30 countries participate and the establishment of the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) are two examples, during the UN-PAAERD period, of subregional cooperation.

25. We also made efforts to harmonize and rationalize the functioning of our subregional organizations with a view to avoiding unnecessary duplication, cutting on wastage and revitalizing them to act as effective vehicles for development and transformation.

26. Our efforts in establishing the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States (PTA), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the revitalization of the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) as well as the African Economic Community, the treaty of which will be tabled for signature at the Summit of our Heads of State and Government in June this year, are a measure of our resolve to push ahead with the overriding objective of economic cooperation and integration, without which the future of our continent will be compromised.

2. Response of the international community

27. Our commitment to "provide the necessary framework to launch long-term programmes for self-sustaining socio-economic development and growth" is matched in UN-PAAERD by the commitment of the international community "to assist Africa to achieve this objective". This commitment was spelt out in UN-PAAERD as follows: "The international community recognizes that the African countries need additional external resources. In this context, it commits itself to making every effort to provide sufficient resources to support and supplement the African development effort." It also agreed "on the importance of increasing official development assistance to Africa, its improved quality and effectiveness". "The international community also recognizes the magnitude of Africa's debt and the severe and restrictive burden which this has placed on many African countries. It realizes that measures have to be taken to alleviate this burden and to enable those countries to concentrate on the full implementation of the priorities." The international community "also realized that lasting solutions to the serious exogenous constraints, over which Africa has no control, will have to be found since their persistence will impede the efforts of African countries", and that "the quality and modality of external assistance and cooperation will need to be improved".

28. A careful and reasoned evaluation of the response of the international community to UN-PAAERD can, regrettably, only lead us to conclude that the international community has not fully carried out its part of the compact.

29. Additional resource requirements, over and above net resource flow levels in 1986, for the implementation of the UN-PAAERD were estimated in the Programme of Action at $9.1 billion a year over the UN-PAAERD period. Not only were these additional resource flows, as expected in UN-PAAERD, not forthcoming, but total net resource flows to Africa actually declined sharply in real terms during the UN-PAAERD period from a level of $25.9 billion in 1986 to $22.6 billion in 1989. The year-to-year figures of total net resource flows were: in 1985: $27.3 billion; in 1986: $25.9 billion; in 1987: $22.7 billion; in 1988: $22.4 billion; and in 1989: $22.6 billion. Official development assistance stagnated in real terms at around $16 billion during the same period, while private flows declined sharply. When account is taken of interest and dividend payments by Africa, net financial transfers to Africa in real terms dropped sharply from $13.0 billion in 1986 to $8.7 billion in 1989.

30. We recognize that the multilateral institutions increased their support to Africa during UN-PAAERD through such programmes as the World Bank's Special Program of Assistance (SPA) and the IMF's Structural Adjustment Facility (SAF) and Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility (ESAF). The World Bank's net flows to Africa amounted to $1.66 billion, over the UN-PAAERD period, while the IMF's total direct financial commitment to Africa increased from SDR 1.5 billion in 1986 to SDR 2.8 billion in 1990.

31. This support had, however, serious limitations. Access to these resources is conditional upon the implementation of SAPs, a fact which leaves little choice for African countries but to accede to such conditionality. Secondly, conditionality requirements have also limited access to the funds. For example, only about a third of total resources available under SAF and ESAF had been disbursed by the IMF to date.

32. In spite of the growing seriousness of Africa's external debt, efforts by the international community to deal with the problem have not been adequate. Africa's debt has virtually become unmanageable. The continent's total external debt stock rose from $204 billion in 1986 to $272 billion in 1990. The ratio of Africa's debt to GDP increased from 54 per cent in 1986 to 109 per cent in 1990, while the ratio of debt to export earnings increased from 239 per cent in 1986 to 338 per cent in 1990. The ratio of actual debt-service payments to exports was in excess of 30 per cent in 1990, while the ratio of scheduled debt service to exports was, in the same year, about 46 per cent. The debt burden has mounted as a result of low export earnings due to the dramatic fall of prices of primary commodities.

33. Some initiatives have been taken by the international community to ease Africa's debt burden such as the Toronto Summit and the welcome move by a number of OECD countries to forgive the debt of certain African countries. Laudable as these initiatives are, they have been inadequate as they have failed to reduce the stock of debt in any meaningful manner, since they apply only to low income, heavily indebted African countries that are implementing structural adjustment programmes. About $1.6 billion was forgiven during 1987-1989 by nine member States of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The impact of the debt forgiven on debt service has been very limited. Debt-service payments were lowered by only $100 million.

34. The fact that these debt initiatives have been implemented within the framework of the Paris Club has seriously impaired their usefulness for our economies. The scale of relief is extremely limited; countries have had to repeatedly reschedule debt and the excessive reschedulings have tended to sap the energy and limited human resources of our countries; and rescheduling terms have not been adapted to the debtor's capacity to pay. Furthermore, Paris Club practices pose two serious problems: first, these practices do actually contribute to exacerbating Africa's long-term debt problem by increasing the stock of non-concessional debt. Secondly, the conditionality of linking eligibility of debt relief to the adherence to IMF/World Bank structural adjustment programmes pressurizes countries to accept SAPs on the one hand and also excludes those countries which are not implementing SAPs from obtaining debt relief on the other hand.

35. Africa's debt problem has been further complicated by the growing seriousness of multilateral debt. The service on multilateral debt represents almost a quarter of Africa's total debt and has been so large as to substantially reduce net financial transfers from multilateral institutions in the case of the World Bank (where annual net transfers after debt service amounted to $0.98 billion against $1.66 billion net flows) and turn these negative in the case of the IMF (where African countries transferred back to the IMF an average of $600 million annually during the UN-PAAERD period). Indeed, eleven African countries were over six months in arrears to the IMF, and eight countries to the World Bank at the end of 1990.

36. The regulations of the multilateral institutions do not allow this debt to be rescheduled or written off. Refinancing arrangements have been inadequate and recent initiatives, such as the IMF's "rights" approach to help refinance the debt owed to it by Africa, will not solve the problem.

37. UN-PAAERD recognized that there is a need for the international community:

"(i) To evolve and implement policies conducive to sustained, equitable and non-inflationary growth, including the expansion of trade through, inter alia, the elimination of protectionism, particularly non-tariff barriers, in accordance with existing commitments, the adoption of measures which encourage African exports and diversification programmes, and improved market access, especially for tropical products, within the framework of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade;

(ii) To deal urgently with commodity issues, taking into account the special interest of the African countries, in the framework of an overall approach, embracing commodity agreements/arrangements, adequate compensatory financing, and also to increase the capacity of African countries to process, market, distribute and transport their exports, and in this context to stress the importance of sufficient ratification of the agreement on the Common Fund for Commodities, for it quickly to become operational."

38. Regrettably, these commitments remained largely unfulfilled during the UN-PAAERD period and the international environment has generally been unfavourable to Africa.

39. Although trade grew faster and rates of growth of the developed market economy countries picked up during the UN-PAAERD period, the export performance of our continent remained weak. This is mainly explained by falling commodity prices, the total collapse of coffee and cocoa prices and the continued supply overhang in commodity markets. Indeed, as we managed to expand the volume of our exports in expectation of higher export earnings, we only faced the opposite situation and also an adverse movement in Africa's terms of trade and purchasing power of exports indices. While the quantum index of our exports increased by about 6 percentage points (during 1986-1989 compared to 1981-1985), the unit value index dropped by 26 points. At the same time, although our imports index fell by 4 percentage points, the unit value index of our imports rose by 11 percentage points. These movements caused further deterioration in Africa's terms of trade by one third during the UN-PAAERD period. The purchasing power of our exports fell sharply to 52.5 per cent during 1986-1989, compared to 75.7 per cent in 1981-1985.

40. Support given to our countries to diversify within and outside the commodity sector was limited. It is also worthwhile to note that neither the World Bank nor the International Finance Corporation had a single African country among its top five recipients of export-oriented diversification lending in the 1980s.

41. International cooperation on commodity issues actually became weaker during the UN-PAAERD period. No new price stabilization measures were introduced, and, indeed, the existing international agreements on coffee and cocoa have become inoperative.

42. The implementation of measures to provide "adequate compensatory financing" to African countries as called for by UN-PAAERD have been grossly inadequate. The extension of the scope of the IMF's Compensatory Financing Facility (CFF) in August 1988 to include a contingency mechanism has actually

reduced our ability to make effective use of it because of the problems of over-conditionality and eligibility. The call of the General Assembly at the Mid-term Review for the participation of all industrialized countries in a globalized arrangement similar to STABEX/SYSMIN to compensate for shortfalls in export earnings of African countries has not received support.

43. While the Common Fund for Commodities has been ratified by many countries, the resources available for it remain meagre and it is yet to operate effectively. There is, in fact, a growing preference for free market operations and a growing perception that declining consumption represents long-term shifts in demand induced by technological change and substitution of new synthetic materials for traditional exports.

44. Protectionism has not abated during the second half of the 1980s in the industrialized countries, while pressure was being put on Africa to liberalize its import regimes. On the other hand, we recognize, with satisfaction, that the signing of the Lome IV Convention in 1989 allowed improved access to European Community markets for veal beef and another 40 ACP products and that the access for fruit and vegetables to the European market has been improved.

45. We are particularly concerned about the inadequacies of technical assistance, both in quality and volume, which currently accounts for 25 per cent of net ODA disbursements.

46. We are aware that during the UN-PAAERD period a number of initiatives were introduced to deal with the problems of technical assistance. These included National Technical Co-operation Assessment Programmes (NATCAPs) and attempts to improve on the functioning of the Round Table (RT) meetings of UNDP as well as the Consultative Group (CG) meetings and the Special Program of Assistance (SPA) of the World Bank.

47. In spite of these initiatives, our concern over the effectiveness of technical assistance is growing. Such concerns include, inter alia, the conditionality sometimes attached to technical assistance, insufficient impact on building a lasting capacity of national institution; the lack of effective involvement of the recipient countries in the determination of technical assistance programmes; the extremely high cost of technical cooperation; difficulty in the assigning of counterpart staff; training efforts not always addressing the priority needs of African countries; lack of use of local expertise and equipment in project implementation and training; and the use of inexperienced foreign experts to implement technical assistance programmes.

48. These results can only lead us to conclude that our own efforts and sacrifices have not been matched by an equal effort on the part of our partners and that their response to UN-PAAERD has disappointingly not been in line with their commitments in UN-PAAERD.

49. Without an improvement in the external environment and adequate external resources, Africa cannot be expected to grow or develop. The external environment remained unfavourable during the UN-PAAERD period. Furthermore, as a result of debt repayments and losses in export earnings, Africa was actually a net exporter of financial resources to the rest of the world. Deducting interest and dividend payments, financial transfers to Africa would decline in real terms from $13.0 billion in 1986 to $8.7 billion in 1989. Taking into account the impact of the deterioration in the terms of trade, net financial transfers would turn negative.

50. We recognize that the response of the United Nations system to the implementation of UN-PAAERD has, on the whole, been positive. The share of Africa in overall global assistance by the United Nations system rose from about 40 per cent in 1986 to over 50 per cent in 1990, i.e., from $1.1 billion in 1986 to $1.5 billion in 1990. In a number of instances, this increase was as a direct result of UN-PAAERD. In other cases, UN-PAAERD helped to strengthen existing mandates and to focus attention on the critical economic situation in Africa and the need to initiate additional activities to deal with it. The share of UN-PAAERD priority sectors in these resources was high. Support was also given to priorities and institutions at the subregional and regional levels. It is also clear that preference was in favour of national programmes. We appreciate the efforts made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to sensitize the international

community to the major areas of concern of UN-PAAERD and his convening of the high-level Expert Groups on Financial Flows to Africa and Africa's Commodity Problems. Cooperation among organizations of the United Nations system as regards global coordination, monitoring and reporting on the implementation of UN-PAAERD and the awareness-building and information dissemination activities are also appreciated.

51. Some efforts were made to improve the quality and modality of assistance and cooperation and support policy reforms. Much more, however, remains to be done in these areas and the emerging consensus on appropriate developmental approaches needs to be translated into operational reality reflecting Africa's own strategies as enunciated in the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-economic Recovery and Transformation (AAF-SAP).

52. We appreciate the contributions which African and non-African non-governmental organizations made in relation to the implementation of UN-PAAERD, particularly the growing magnitude of financial flows from NGO sources, education and advocacy work in the industrialized countries to seek more responsive action by Africa's multilateral and bilateral partners to meet Africa's development needs and also in support of Africa's own development policies and approaches, and the organization of various conferences and the dissemination of information to support and renew the implementation of UN-PAAERD.

III. IMPACT OF UN-PAAERD ON THE AFRICAN ECONOMY

53. We are of the view that UN-PAAERD has had very little positive impact on the performance of the African economy. Economic performance during the period 1986-1990 was not satisfactory. The rate of growth of the gross domestic product (GDP) averaged only 2.3 per cent per annum during the period, well below the average rate of population growth of 3.1 per cent. The annual rates of growth of GDP were erratic from one year to another. From a level of 5.8 per cent in 1985, growth rates fell to 2.6 and 0.7 per cent in 1986 and 1987 respectively, increased to 2.1 per cent in 1988 and 3.3 per cent in 1989 and fell back to 2.6 per cent in 1990.

54. Thus, growth during the second half of the 1980s depicted retrogression, and not progress, in the standards of living of our people. GDP per capita decreased annually at an average rate of 0.7 per cent during 1986-1990. Gross domestic investment as a percentage of GDP remained low, and actually declined from about 23.5 per cent in 1980 and 19.2 per cent in 1986 to 17.6 per cent in 1989. Gross domestic savings stagnated around 16 per cent during the UN-PAAERD period, compared to a level of above 24 per cent in 1980.

55. A number of reasons were responsible for this poor performance. Paramount among these is the fact that the structure of our economies hardly changed during the period, causing production, productivity, savings, investment and capital formation to remain at depressed levels.

56. Added to that, a number of internal and external constraints had combined to aggravate the situation.

57. Important among the internal factors was the weather which determined, to a great extent, the contribution of the agricultural sector to growth either directly or indirectly through the impact on manufacturing. The fact that many parts of our continent were subject to internal and cross-border conflicts was an added cause for poor performance.

58. The internal factors aside, it was the external constraints which were largely responsible for the aggravation of the situation. Our efforts to undertake economic reform measures were seriously undermined, as indicated in the preceding section, by an adverse external environment; declining export earnings; a crippling debt and debt-servicing problem; and inadequate resource flows. These interlinked problems depleted scarce resources and caused a situation of reverse flows of resources out of Africa to the rest of the world. Under these circumstances, it is difficult to see how our economies could have grown and prospered.

59. Economic performance in the Southern African subregion was also severely affected by the acts of destabilization by the Republic of South Africa. These acts cost the Southern African countries over $60 billion between 1980 and 1989. The SADCC countries' losses in the 1980-1988 period came to more than twice the total output of goods and services of these countries during 1988. In fact, destabilization was the principal cause of economic setbacks for the subregion to the extent that in 1988, for example, the output of the subregion would have been over 40 per cent higher in the absence of a hostile South Africa.

60. UN-PAAERD itself had little impact on economic performance during the Programme of Action period. Positive effects derived from the implementation of economic reform measures were more than offset by the negative effect of internal and external constraints and the shortfall in meeting the commitments by the international community in the Programme of Action.

61. Indeed, as UN-PAAERD was being propagated, over two thirds of our countries were actually implementing structural adjustment programmes supported by the World Bank and the IMF. The manner in which these programmes were conceived and implemented often had the result of hampering the achievement of some objectives of the Programme of Action. The removal of agricultural subsidies and the liberalization of imports was, for example, in many instances harmful to increased production in agriculture and manufacturing. Large-scale and repeated devaluation also helped to fuel inflation, and excessively high nominal interest rates encouraged speculative activities rather than productive investment.

62. Improvement in the human and social conditions, which is the final goal and the raison d'être for improved economic performance, were nowhere in sight during the UN-PAAERD period. Indeed, there was a marked deterioration in those conditions. The incidence of poverty, unemployment and underemployment increased. Expenditure cuts as a result of SAPs contributed to the deterioration in health and educational services, making access more difficult to education, health and other social services; lowered ratios of enrolment in educational institutions; and left our universities and research centres hollow shells of what they used to be. Devaluations, wage and salary freezes and reduction caused sharp falls in real income with serious concomitant consequences for productivity, motivation and accountability. The brain drain among our most talented and competent high-level manpower has largely been due to the drastic fall in real earnings and the crumbled-down scientific infrastructure.

63. As we talk about a new generation of SAPs, we wish to point out, as has been affirmed in General Assembly resolution 45/194, that the human dimension and long-term structural transformation requirements are yet to be imperatively integrated within such programmes.

64. All told, the economic and social conditions in Africa during 1986-1990 can only depict a picture of a continuing socio-economic crisis, a situation which calls for the need to deal with the underlying root causes thereof in a decisive and fundamental manner.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

65. The foregoing analysis can only lead us to conclude that novel as it was, UN-PAAERD did not yield the expected results.

66. A number of reasons, as we have shown above, have been responsible for this outcome:

1. Important and unique as it was, UN-PAAERD had not been the focal point for rallying international action in support of Africa. In spite of the global consensus and coalition that UN-PAAERD represented, concurrent efforts and initiatives continued to be undertaken during the period. As UN-PAAERD was ushered in, the World Bank- and IMF-supported structural adjustment programmes continued to be implemented. Indeed, these programmes very often impeded the implementation of UN-PAAERD;

2. While our countries honoured their commitment and continued to implement policy reforms and structural adjustment programmes, often at tremendous social and economic costs, the international support that was envisaged within the framework of UN-PAAERD was, disappointingly, lacking and well below expectations. Instead of receiving $9.1 billion additionally on an annual basis over and above 1986 net resource flow levels, these flows actually declined in real terms at the end of the UN-PAAERD period. The international community was also unable to address the debt and commodity problems in the manner expected, to the extent that our countries became more indebted by the end of the Programme of Action period than before and also earned less from an increased volume of exports. Little improvement, if any, was made in the modalities of technical assistance;

3. The malaise of the African economy, and the root cause of its underdevelopment, lie in the insufficient structural transformation and, in this regard, the structures of the African economies hardly changed during the UN-PAAERD period;

4. Although internal constraints played a role in intensifying the causes for the lack of improvement of socio-economic performance, it was the external constraints and the unfavourable international economic environment which constituted the main obstacle to recovery and development.

67. In the light of the experience of UN-PAAERD, we have come to the conclusion that Africa does not need another UN-PAAERD. Africa is already committed as a member of the international community to the new International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade. At the regional level, there are the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos and the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-economic Recovery and Transformation. With 30 African countries belonging to the group of LDCs, the second Programme of Action for the LDCs adopted in Paris in September 1990 constitutes virtually a regional plan. In addition, there are two sectoral programmes for Africa - the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (UNTACDA II) and the United Nations second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA II). In this regard, we conclude that there are more than enough regional programmes in existence and Africa does not, therefore, need another one.

68. In any case, given the global political and economic climate, it cannot be expected that a repetition of UN-PAAERD, no matter how modified, would yield results different from those of the previous Programme of Action. If anything, it might exacerbate the marginalization of Africa by removing its main concerns from current global concerns and treating them as special problems. It will thus be a political mistake to relegate Africa to a "back burner" position by invoking yet another programme with an appellatory character, which everybody would know that nothing will come out of it.

69. In these circumstances, we have concluded that we need to put in place, for the rest of the decade, arrangements that would avoid the further marginalization of our continent and will not treat our problems as special cases - but as points of global problems without whose solution international development and cooperation will not be fully attained. Consequently we have opted for a new kind of international agenda for cooperation with Africa - an agenda that is specific on issues and problem-oriented and whose solutions will enable Africa to implement fully the existing global, regional and sectoral strategies, programmes and plans.

V. INTERNATIONAL AGENDA FOR COOPERATION WITH AFRICA IN THE 1990s

70. This new kind of international agenda for cooperation with Africa in the 1990s will be in two parts - what Africa must commit itself to do and what the international community should commit itself to do.

PART I OF THE AGENDA: AFRICA'S COMMITMENT

A. Policy framework

71. Following from the foregoing conclusions, we can only surmise that our continent has no alternative but to pursue, urgently and persistently, economic reform measures that would lead to a process of sustained and sustainable growth and development.

72. Such a process cannot be set in motion through the implementation of orthodox structural adjustment programmes. That is not only our conclusion, but also the verdict of the United Nations General Assembly when it concluded:

> "The implementation of structural adjustment programmes has given rise to general concerns, such as human, social and political consequences, as well as long-term financing needs for Africa's economic recovery and development efforts. .... Structural adjustment programmes should be designed in such a way as to mitigate their adverse socio-economic effects, ensure that the human dimension is integrated in them, further improve the well-being of the poor and disadvantaged in African societies, notably through redirecting social and developmental expenditure, and making short-term structural adjustment measures compatible with and built into long-term structural transformation."
>
> Indeed, the General Assembly challenged us by urging that:
>
> "African countries should increase their efforts in the search for a viable conceptual and practical framework for economic structural adjustment programmes in keeping with the long-term development objectives and strategies at the national, subregional and regional levels."

73. We met that challenge by elaborating the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-economic Recovery and Transformation (AAF-SAP) which charts the way forward to the achievement of sustained and sustainable growth and development.

74. Not only was AAF-SAP adopted by our Heads of State and Government, but it was also blessed by the United Nations General Assembly which commended it as a framework for negotiation with Africa's bilateral and multilateral partners. We, therefore, call on our partners to take account of these decisions in all negotiations.

75. We are convinced that growth and development on a sustained and sustainable basis can only unfold through the popular enthusiasm of the people and their full participation in the process of development. We are, therefore, determined to press ahead with the democratization of development and the full implementation of the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation and the declaration of our Heads of State and Government at their 1990 Summit on the political and socio-economic situation in Africa and the fundamental changes taking place in the world.

76. But this determination to pursue vigorously the transformation of our economy and society is not likely to succeed if the international economic environment continues to remain hostile and if the interlinked problems of debt commodities and resource flows are not fundamentally solved.

77. On the basis of the foregoing considerations emanating from our objective evaluation of the implementation of UN-PAAERD, we propose an initiative commensurate with the status and challenges confronting our continent at the dawn of the 1990s. Such an initiative shall take the form of a new Agenda for Cooperation between Africa and the international community that would focus on the set of problems without the solution of which Africa cannot be expected to progress and prosper, and which would underwrite our continent's efforts and development orientation.

78. Thus on our part we will, above all, commit ourselves to the transformation of the structures of our economies to achieve growth and development on a sustained and sustainable basis as enunciated in AAF-SAP.

B. The human dimension

79. At the centre of that process is the human dimension. We therefore resolve to improve the human conditions and living standards of our people. We are aware that our capacity to develop and compete meaningfully in the world economy depends on the efficiency and quality of our human resources. It is in this sense that we regard intensified human resources development and utilization and capacity building as an important part of the Agenda for International Cooperation with Africa.

C. Intensification of the democratization process

80. We also commit ourselves to speed up the democratization of the economy and society and the full participation of our people in development as embodied in the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation.

D. Promotion of regional and subregional cooperation

81. The effective transformation of our economies would not be possible without effective regional and subregional economic cooperation and integration. We therefore resolve to pursue this objective with vigour and fully commit ourselves to the establishment of the African Economic Community and to the effective functioning of our subregional organizations, the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States (PTA), the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA).

E. South-South cooperation

82. We are also convinced that South-South cooperation is an indispensable element for the success of the New Agenda for Cooperation and we are, therefore, determined to intensify such cooperation.

PART II OF THE AGENDA: THE COMMITMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

83. The international community would need to support Africa's own approaches to development and transformation and to create the conditions that are necessary for the success of our endeavours. Within the framework of this New Agenda for Cooperation, the international community would need to deal with the problems of bilateral and multilateral debt, commodities and resource flows in a fundamental manner that would provide lasting solutions to these problems.

A. Solution for Africa's debt problem

1. Bilateral debt

84. In the area of debt, major initiatives to cancel the bulk of Africa's bilateral ODA and export credits debt must be instituted. We are convinced, in this regard, that the solution to the debt problem is primarily a political, and not a technical one, as the recent experience of some countries has shown.

85. We call on the governments of the industrialized countries to actively participate in the solution of the problem of commercial debt with a view to effecting a substantial reduction of that debt and facilitating its repayment.

2. Multilateral debt

86. Bold solutions to the problem of multilateral debt must also be included. In addition to the refinancing facilities that are already existing with respect to multilateral debt, we, therefore, call for the amendment of the articles of the Bretton Woods institutions to permit a resolution of the problem.

87. In all, we call on the international community to assist in the implementation of the African Common Position on Africa's External Debt Crisis, particularly the organization of the International Conference on Africa's External Indebtedness.

3. De-linking debt relief from SAPs' conditionality

88. There is also a need to de-link debt relief from the damaging conditionality of SAPs.

B. Diversification of the African economy

89. Another area in which fundamental reforms are required concerns the African commodities sector. Our common position on the Fraser report is pertinent in this respect. Our development strategy cannot be tied to the commodities sector largely because the control of this sector rests with the international community. As it is, increasing commodity output, given the adverse terms of trade against producers, is a poor development strategy. Larger output is not likely to lead to greater revenue. Therefore, a concerted programme of diversification of Africa's economies; including intensified industrialization, is called for. Not only will this improve our technological position, it will also reduce our dependence on a few commodities as the mainstay of our economies. The international community will, therefore, need to support this effort and also measures to make earnings from our commodities more remunerative.

3. Increased resource flows

90. We also launch an appeal to the international community to increase its financial assistance to Africa in a substantial manner to consolidate reform programmes and achieve the structural transformation of the economies.

MONITORING MACHINERY

91. It is this kind of New Agenda for Cooperation that needs to be forged in the aftermath of UN-PAAERD, where concrete actions in critical areas of mutual concern will be specifically implemented and monitored within the framework of the New Agenda.

92. To oversee the monitoring of and reporting on the implementation of the New Agenda, there is a need for a high-level monitoring committee to be instituted. We wish, therefore, to propose that a machinery should be established comprising the representatives of the ECA Conference of Ministers and the Development Assistance Committee of OECD in equal numbers plus a group of eminent persons from Africa and the international community, appointed in their personal capacity by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the ECA Conference of Ministers.

93. Reports on the implementation of this New Agenda for Cooperation should be prepared and submitted annually to the General Assembly through the ECA Conference of Ministers and ECOSOC.

94. The United Nations Inter-agency Task Force, which has done an excellent job on the monitoring of and reporting on the implementation of UN-PAAERD, should act as the technical advisory body of the committee.

95. The United Nations and non-governmental organizations have an important role to play in the implementation of the New Agenda and extra efforts need to be made by them to provide support within this

framework. Much needs to be done by the United Nations system in terms of coordination of approaches and operational modalities; increased mobilization of resources; assistance in improving the external environment and dealing effectively with the debt problem; easing conditionalities; offering assistance at more concessional terms and finding a solution to the multilateral debt; and the effective and efficient delivery of technical cooperation programmes.

Annex II

REPORT OF THE TWELFTH MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (29 APRIL TO 7 MAY 1991) AS ADOPTED BY THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION/SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
9-13 May 1991

A. Attendance and organization of work

1. The twelfth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole (TEPCOW) was held at Addis Ababa, People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, from 29 April to 7 May 1991. The meeting was formally opened by Comrade Zewde Teklu, Alternate Member of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia, Commissioner for Central Planning for National Resources Preservation, Construction and Planning of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (PDRE). Mr. Adebayo Adedeji, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, also delivered a statement at the opening ceremony of the meeting. The representative of Namibia moved a motion of thanks to the Government and people of Ethiopia.

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following States members of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, the Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

3. Observers from the following States Members of the United Nations were present: Afghanistan, China, Finland, France, Romania, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Venezuela.

4. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented: United Nations Regional Commissions New York Office (REGCOMM), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), International Labour Organisation (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Bank, International Telecommunication Union (ITU), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS/HABITAT), World Food Council (WFC) and International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

5. The Organization of African Unity (OAU) was represented.

6. Observers were present from the following intergovernmental organizations: African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC), African Development Bank (ADB), African Institute for Higher Technical Training and Research (AIHTTR), African Regional Centre for Technology (ARCT), African Regional Organization for Standardization (ARSO), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), European Economic Community (EEC), African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP), Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL), Eastern and Southern African Management Institute (ESAMI), Eastern and Southern African Mineral Resources Development Centre (ESAMRDC), Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques (IFORD), Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States (PTA), Regional Centre for Training in Aerospace Surveys (RECTAS), Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS) and Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC).

7. Observers were also present from the following non-governmental organizations: Commonwealth Secretariat and Lutheran World Federation.

8. The Committee unanimously elected the following officers:

Chairman:	Zambia
First Vice-Chairman:	Nigeria
Second Vice-Chairman:	Burundi
Rapporteur:	Morocco

9. The Committee established an open-ended subcommittee chaired by the Second Vice-Chairman, Burundi, to consider draft resolutions for adoption by the Committee.

B. Agenda

10. On 29 April 1991, the Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the meeting.

2. Election of officers.

3. Adoption of the agenda.

PART I. Preliminary review of Africa's economic and social performance in 1990 and prospects for 1991

4.1 Economic Report on Africa 1991.

4.2 The Gulf crisis and the African economies.

PART II. Transformation, recovery and adjustment

5.1 Lagos Plan of Action: Ten years after:

- Decennial review and appraisal of the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos

5.2 United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UN-PAAERD):

- Final review and appraisal of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 (UN-PAAERD).

5.3 Beyond recovery and towards transformation: African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-economic Recovery and Transformation (AAF-SAP):

(a) Progress report on follow-up on AAF-SAP;

(b) Revitalization of long-term planning for structural transformation;

(c) Mechanisms for implementing and monitoring the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation; public participation in development planning and management;

(d) Impact of structural adjustment programmes on population;

(e) Preparations for the third African Population Conference.

PART III. Issues, studies and reports on regional cooperation for development in Africa

6. (a) Reorganization of the MULPOCs: Follow-up on the report of the evaluation mission to review the achievements of the MULPOCs with a view to strengthening them and making them more effective;

(b) Progress report on the strengthening of subregional economic integration process and the establishment of the African Economic Community;

(c) Industrial development in Africa:

- Progress report on the preparation of the programme for the United Nations second Industrial Development Decade for Africa;

(d) Transport and communications in Africa:

- Programme for the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa;

(e) Natural resources and environment in Africa:

(i) Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan (MPAP) including the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade in Africa (1981-1990) and perspectives for the 1990s;

(ii) Report on the preparations in Africa for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992;

(f) Social development and humanitarian affairs:

(i) The state of social development in Africa and the policy challenges for the 1990s;

(ii) Changing socio-economic conditions of women in Africa in the context of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women;

(g) Operational activities:

- Report on ECA-executed technical cooperation projects.

PART IV. Issues from subsidiary organs and sectoral bodies of the Commission calling for action by the Conference of Ministers (item 7)

PART V. Statutory issues

8. Follow-up action on relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the twenty-fifth session of the Commission, the General Assembly and ECOSOC that are of interest to Africa:

(a) Follow-up action on relevant resolutions adopted by the twenty-fifth session of the Commission/sixteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers;

(b) Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its regular session of 1990 and by the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session in the economic and social sectors that are of interest to Africa.

9. Staff and administrative questions.

PART VI. Programme of work and priorities of the Commission

10. (a) Proposed programme of work and priorities for the 1992-1993 biennium;

(b) ECA Advisory Services: The Challenges for the 1990s.

PART VII. Pledging Conference for the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD)

11. (a) Progress report on the implementation of UNTFAD-funded projects, 1990-1991;

(b) Proposals for utilization of UNTFAD resources during the period 1992-1993;

(c) Proposal for a regional programme for the placement of African experts.

12. Orientation paper for the UNDP Fifth Inter-country Programme for Africa.

13. Any other business.

14. Date and venue of the thirteenth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole.

15. Adoption of the report.

16. Closure of the meeting.

C. Account of proceedings

Opening addresses

11. In his opening statement, Comrade Zewde Teklu, Alternate Member of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia and Commissioner for Central Planning for National Resources Preservation, Construction and Planning welcomed participants to his country. He said that, eleven years after the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos were adopted, assessments of both had affirmed their continued validity as blue-prints for Africa's development. The collective strategies of the Plan were still crucial to the rapid recovery and transformation of African economies in the 1990s. In that regard, the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes (AAF-SAP) completed and supplemented both the Plan and the Act.

12. At the heart of the African development perspective lay the desire for deep-rooted structural transformation that made for self-sustaining growth. African countries were rejecting orthodox structural adjustment programmes (SAPs) because they did not remove the structural bottle-necks; that required determined State intervention in the economy. The SAPs assumed that, since conventional instruments, such as the control of money supply, credit exchange, interest rates and trade liberalization had been relevant to well-structured economies, they might also produce positive results for the weak and disjointed African economies. They had failed to sustain economic growth, and had instead exacerbated budget and balance-of-payment deficits.

13. It was in response to that situation that AAF-SAP had been developed. The framework had stressed that such programmes must be nationally conceived if they were to lead to success. Economic transformation programmes had to be so organized as to protect the already dismal levels of social spending in Africa. AAF-SAP was comprehensive in the sense that its macro-economic framework, policy measures and implementation strategies took into account the existing dynamic relations between all the major elements of adjustment and transformation. It also placed emphasis on full mobilization and efficient utilization of local resources, and on the need to create an enabling environment for sustained development. It urged the adoption of a pragmatic approach in the formulation of specific programmes, the appropriate choice of policy instruments, and the search for relevant implementation strategies in each country. There was a necessity for African Governments to replace orthodox SAPs, which inhibited change and transformation, with AAF-SAP's long-term, human-centred development objectives. With their underlying vulnerability, fragility and structural weaknesses, African economies had not been able to contain external shocks. The advanced industrial countries had taken no special measures to alleviate the impact of the crisis, but had left African countries to cope on their own.

14. In his view, nothing short of a drastic reduction in the stock of debt and debt service would be adequate to support the recovery and long-term process of growth in Africa. In that regard, African countries should do their utmost to keep African debt problems on the economic agenda of the major creditor countries and lending institutions. It would be essential for Africa, in collaboration with its development partners, to devise quickly a medium-term programme which would follow UN-PAAERD in revitalizing the Lagos Plan of Action and operationalizing AAF-SAP.

15. In its march towards the ultimate objective of the Final Act of Lagos, i.e, the establishment of an African Economic Community, there was an urgent need to harmonize the process of economic integration among the different subregions. It was also time to assess the extent to which the Final Act of Lagos had been implemented, and its provisions incorporated, by African States in their national, subregional and regional policies. Those subregional groups currently existing needed to be strengthened and made complementary, for otherwise the African Economic Community could not successfully be launched. African countries must renew their commitment by showing more political commitment to development. He hoped that TEPCOW would be successful in defining remedies to the current crisis of the continent.

16. The Executive Secretary observed that, in ECA's assessment of socio-economic conditions in Africa over the past 12 months, there had been no indication of a positive long-term trend towards recovery and structural transformation. The modest rates of overall economic expansion of 3.3 and 2.6 per cent registered in 1989 and 1990 respectively had been far from sufficient to redress the devastating declines in socio-economic welfare experienced in the 1980s. In 1990, the standard of living of the average African had fallen again as unemployment, inflation and population pressures remained at intolerable levels. On the external front, the Uruguay Round had stalled. The second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Paris in September 1990, had not even heeded the call for an immediate programme of action for the period 1991-1993, which was to enhance emergency preparedness and to reconstruct the shattered economies of the African least developed countries. Those now numbered 29 out of the 43 existing in the world.

17. African agriculture had not done well in 1990. Production had risen by only half the rate of population growth at 1.5 per cent, although this was more than the 0.5 per cent achieved in 1989. Rainfall patterns had been generally unfavourable and some areas had been hit by drought. Civil strife, the structural problems of poor transportation and poor market conditions had caused serious food shortages in some countries. Commercial crops had also not contributed significantly to the fragile growth of the regional GDP. Some positive developments had, however, taken place in the mining and mineral sector in the year following the Persian Gulf crisis and the subsequent rise in crude oil production. The seven oil-producing African countries had earned an additional $US 10.5 billion, thus boosting their GDP by almost 3.5 per cent, and increasing total African export values by 14.7 per cent in 1990. That economic windfall had, however, not been enough to bring the income of the oil exporting countries to the level they enjoyed in 1980, and subsequent fluctuations in oil prices had only succeeded in pushing public finances in those countries into disarray.

With regard to the non-oil exporting countries, the impact of the Gulf war had been yet one more crisis and a distraction from the goal of recovery and sustained development. Besides, the output of most non-oil mineral products decreased in 1990, thus marking an end to the 1987-1989 metal boom. The manufacturing sector had registered some modest growth, but the process of deindustrialization had persisted as manufacturing plants continued to be either under-utilized or to close down altogether.

18. The total stock of Africa's external debt had risen by 4.7 per cent between 1989 and 1990, to reach $US 271 billion - about 3.2 times the value of exports of goods and services, and the equivalent of the combined GDP of the region. Sub-Saharan Africa's total debt-servicing obligations added up to about 34 per cent of exports of goods and services in 1990. The steep rise in oil prices following the Gulf crisis had forced the non-oil exporting countries to resort to short-term measures, including expensive short-term borrowing, to alleviate crucial energy shortages. None of the debt-relief initiatives proposed at the international level had gone far enough to provide solutions that actually reduced the stock of debt and debt service.

19. Prospects for the rest of the year and beyond depended not only on the weather situation but also on the extent to which African Governments persisted with domestic policy reforms, sound economic management, maintenance of a stable security system and a positive, people-centred political climate. Should such conditions prevail, the food and agriculture sector would grow faster than the population in 1991. As a consequence, the manufacturing sector, and in particular agro-industries, would experience significant recovery, especially in capacity utilization as domestic inputs increased.

20. He felt that the theme of the session, "Africa in the 1990s: Meeting the challenges", was particularly fitting, and the agenda before the Committee well-focused.

21. The review and appraisal of the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos would serve as a useful springboard for tackling today's challenges. The group of eminent Africans set up to review and appraise the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos had emphasized the continued relevance of the Plan and the Final Act, and the need for their rapid and vigorous implementation in the period remaining. The review would be useful in determining the choices that would have to be made in the next ten years.

22. The dislocations in African economies caused by the Gulf crisis and the looming world recession called for resolute measures to enable Africa to begin the uphill climb of structural transformation. Among the possible measures to be taken, serious thought should be given to the design of an overall energy strategy for the African region. Africa must draw lessons from the Gulf crisis. It should, in particular, face the challenges of the new geopolitical order that was fast evolving in the wake of the war, if it was to avoid further marginalization both economically and politically.

23. With regard to the implementation of AAF-SAP in African countries, much progress had been realized in the previous year. However, more remained to be done, particularly in mobilizing support at the popular level. With regard to regional co-operation for economic integration as a strategy for African development and survival, the scheduled signing of the treaty establishing the African Economic Community assumed particular significance. The Commission should continue to spare no effort to ensure that the mechanisms and the strategies to be established by the Treaty would be put in motion forthwith.

24. The Executive Secretary commended the programme for the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (UNTACDA II) as adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning to the Committee for its review. It was the responsibility of the ECA Conference of Ministers to recommend the programme to the African Heads of State and Government and to the international community. The Conference of African Ministers of Industry would itself meet this year to adopt, on behalf of the Commission, the programme for the United Nations second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA II), which would run concurrently with UNTACDA II.

25. He underlined the significance of the other issues in regional cooperation for development in Africa which were before the Committee, such as population factors in development; the implementation of the Mar del Plata Plan of Action, including the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade in Africa; women's participation in the industrialization process; and the UNDP Fifth Inter-Country Programme for Africa.

26. He introduced the ECA Multidisciplinary Regional Advisory Group (ECA-MRAG), which had recently been constituted from ECA's regular regional advisers, and had been entrusted with the task of providing flexible, multidisciplinary solutions to problems facing member States. He hoped that member States would take advantage of the potential of the Group.

27. He was happy to announce that the vacancy rate at ECA had dropped significantly from 25.7 per cent in 1989 to 8.5 per cent. The proportion of women in the professional staff categories had also increased in the past few years. ECA had completed a large-scale office automation exercise with the acquisition and installation of micro-computers and other equipment and software accessible to virtually all staff members. The ground-breaking ceremony for the commencement of the construction of the additional conference facilities had also been performed.

28. This was to be the last opening statement he would make to TEPCOW as Executive Secretary. At his request, the Secretary-General had agreed to release him of his duties as the head of the Commission by 31 July 1991. The Deputy Executive Secretary was also leaving the service of the United Nations. He expressed grateful thanks to the Committee for its support over the years.

29. The representative of Namibia read a vote of thanks to the Committee. He extended the greetings of President Sam Nujoma and the Government of Namibia to all its members. He referred to the statement made by the representative of Ethiopia, who, in reviewing the major economic problems of Africa which were prominent on the agenda of TEPCOW, had contributed greatly to its work in the coming days.

30. He also referred to the impending departure of the Executive Secretary, Professor Adebayo Adedeji, and spoke of the deep gratitude expressed by the Committee for his devoted stewardship of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

31. He drew the attention of the Committee to its agenda, and in particular to the Economic Report on Africa, which reviewed the main socio-economic trends of 1990, and the prognosis for 1991. Despite the depressing picture it conveyed, it was a document which would engender positive discussion among the members of the Committee. He was convinced that TEPCOW would bring its expertise to bear on this and other issues on the agenda, so that sound and concrete recommendations could be prepared and transmitted to the Conference of Ministers for their approval.

PART I

PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF AFRICA'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PERFORMANCE IN 1990 AND PROSPECTS FOR 1991

Economic Report on Africa 1991 (agenda item 4.1)

32. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.17/2 entitled "Economic Report on Africa 1991".

33. In its review of socio-economic trends and issues in Africa during 1990, the Committee noted that the socio-economic situation had been marked by a deterioration of the welfare of the people compared to 1989. That was a result of several factors, including harsh climatic conditions, the impact of the Persian Gulf crisis on the total import bill and the level of debt, the decline in world demand for commodities, the worsening problem of debt which increased by 4.7 per cent compared to the preceding year, and other structural and social problems in several parts of the continent.

34. With regard to the prognosis for 1991, the Committee observed that Africa's prospects for the current year depended on two vital factors: the performance of the agricultural sector, and the economic situation in the industrialized countries. There was a strong possibility that the agricultural season would be good if rainfall was adequate, and policies for the strengthening of the agricultural sectors were pursued. On the other hand, the recession in the industrialized countries risked undermining the chances of Africa to improve its performance in 1991 after a fall in commodity prices and consequent financial problems. The low flow of resources to Africa could have a serious impact on the level of investments, but that could be alleviated by optimizing the use of existing infrastructure. It was expected, however, that the African oil-exporting countries would have a better year if the price of oil remained at $US 20 per barrel. Overall, therefore, the GDP for 1991 was expected to grow by 2 to 3 per cent.

35. The Committee noted certain methodological errors in the presentation of the document, particularly in the table of contents. Certain delegations questioned the accuracy of some of the data pertaining to their countries in the document and said that they would provide the secretariat with the correct information. The Committee noted the pessimistic tone of the document with regard to the economic performance of Africa in 1990 as well as the prospects for 1991.

36. The Committee dwelt at length on the negative impact of social conflicts in Africa on the welfare of the people, a subject which it noted was being dealt with for the first time by the secretariat in a working document. It expressed satisfaction that the treatment of the issue was a sign that Africa was ready to look at its problems squarely, and to search for relevant solutions to them. Social conflicts as well as problems of democratization and popular participation should henceforth take their place in the development debate in Africa.

37. Another issue discussed in detail by the Committee was privatization in Africa. Far from being a simple and unique consequence of poor public enterprise performance, privatization should rather be perceived as an economic, political and strategic choice, whereby the State decided to give each entrepreneur the chance to do more and better. It was unfortunate that a very important aspect of privatization, namely the development of the management capabilities of indigenous businessmen to enable them take full advantage of privatization, was most often overlooked.

38. On the question of Africa's debt, the Committee observed that difficulties in finding solutions to the debt problem were due to lack of political will on the part of some donors as it was clear that the problem was more political than technical. The African Common Position on Debt was quite clear. What was lacking was the unwillingness of the international community to address that position in a fundamental manner. The Committee, accordingly, urged that the international community should agree to the organization of an international conference on Africa's debt. It further urged that emphasis should be given to more efficient debt management and that ECA should increase its assistance in that area.

39. The Committee was gratified to note that certain industrialized countries continued to plead the cause of Africa at international forums and were taking measures to increase aid to Africa, and to alleviate its debt burden.

40. The Committee recommended that there should be more collaboration between ECA and member States regarding data to be included in ECA documents on their respective countries. Paragraph 57 of the document should incorporate the main management mechanisms of the external sector contained in the "Strategies for revitalization, recovery and growth of African trade in the 1990s and beyond", document E/ECA/TRADE/89/25/Rev.5, adopted by the special session of the Conference of African Ministers of Trade in December 1990. The Committee further recommended the endorsement of the "Strategies for revitalization, recovery and growth of African trade in the 1990s and beyond" and urged the industrialized countries to increase their aid to Africa.

The Gulf crisis and the African economies (agenda item 4.2)

41. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.17/3. It commended the initiative of the secretariat for bringing up the issue for consideration. Some delegates took exception to the use in the document of the adjective "Persian" to qualify the Gulf and considered it inappropriate. The Executive Secretary explained that the word had been used in compliance with a recent United Nations editorial directive.

42. The Committee underlined the distinction between the impacts of the crisis on the African oil-producing countries on the one hand, and the oil-importing ones on the other. For the oil-producing countries, the increase in oil prices had enabled some of them to make considerable gains in revenue, which helped to ease the financial constraints for import needs and external debt servicing. The oil-importers suffered from additional import bills totalling about $US 2.7 billion, uncertainties in energy supply, and high domestic prices in the energy and related sectors, which forced them to resort to short-term borrowing, thereby deepening their debt crisis. The Committee felt that other serious consequences of the crisis, in particular those concerning the food and agriculture, food security, the environment, tourism and transport sectors also needed to be explored. The dominant theme had been the impact of oil but that impact had spilt over to create disruptions in supply, diversification, immigration, exports and other factors. Since the evaluation was only provisional, the Committee recommended that the cumulative impacts of the Gulf crisis on Africa should be monitored regularly.

43. The Committee recalled with dismay that there had been insufficient international response to the adverse impacts on the African non-oil producing countries. It however noted with satisfaction that some African oil-producing countries had come to the help of some of those which had adversely suffered from the crisis.

44. The Committee further reviewed some important lessons that should be learnt from the Gulf crisis. They included the need to review energy policies, to develop strategies for establishing shock-absorbing energy measures, to establish subregional and regional standardization of facilities for the use of energy, and to encourage research and development into alternative sources of energy. All of that should be embodied in a comprehensive Energy Plan for Africa.

PART II
TRANSFORMATION, RECOVERY AND ADJUSTMENT

Lagos Plan of Action : Ten years after

- Decennial review and appraisal of the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos (agenda item 5.1)

45. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.17/4: Decennial review and appraisal of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos.

46. The Committee took note of the conclusions of the meeting of the group of high-level experts that had been jointly organized by ADB, ECA and the OAU, in Lagos, Nigeria, from 6 to 8 December 1990 for the purpose. It concurred with the group of experts that the Plan and the Act were as valid as ever and noted, therefore, that the revitalization of the commitment to their full implementation was a major necessity in Africa if the continent was to move forward in the 1990s, and if there was not to be another lost decade. The revitalization of the commitment to the Plan and the Act was particularly important in the light of the adverse factors that had undermined economic growth and development in the 1980s. There had been a crisis of development planning in Africa, which had resulted from the pursuit of orthodox structural adjustment programmes. African countries were often misled by an erroneous perception that structural adjustment was incompatible with medium- and long-term development planning.

47. The accelerated implementation of the Plan called, among other things, for Africa to make national and collective self-reliance the central pivot of its strategy for socio-economic transformation, with particular emphasis on subregional and regional economic cooperation, and the harmonization and integration of various sectoral, national and subregional plans. It also called for the full respect of the principles of the "African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation".

48. The Committee recognized that, while progress had been made towards realizing the goals and objectives of the Final Act of Lagos, especially in terms of the establishment of new subregional economic groupings, the Plan itself had remained virtually unimplemented. The Committee ascribed this non-implementation of the Plan to both internal and external factors. It deplored the fact that the principles and objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action and Final Act of Lagos had not always been adequately integrated in and implemented within the framework of national plans. This was because economic and short-term considerations had often been given priority over the development and structural transformation imperatives which underlie the strategy of the Lagos Plan of Action. It was also regrettable that no provision had been made for such mechanisms during the adoption of the Plan.

49. The need for member States to rely on internal resources for the implementation of Africa's development programmes was underlined. Development planning was seen as a valid concept and a practical tool for the attainment of medium- and long-term development goals and objectives such as those embodied in the Lagos Plan of Action.

50. The Executive Secretary underscored the significance of political will as an indispensable factor for the full and effective implementation of the Plan. Most countries had indeed failed to follow the Plan, even though modalities for implementation had been drawn up in a seminal paper which was made available to member States soon after its adoption. He reminded the Committee that a five-year review of the implementation of the Plan had been undertaken in 1985 by TEPCOW and the Conference of Ministers. The conclusions arrived at then were not considerably different from those reached now.

51. The goodwill of the international community was of course important for the successful implementation of Africa's strategies and programmes, and Africa had always sought that goodwill. It was, however, unrealistic for the region to continue to draw up plans and programmes whose external financial requirements were upwards of 80 per cent of the total. There was need to rely more heavily on domestic resources. The Lagos Plan of Action was still relevant to present and future development strategies and effective policy reforms for socio-economic transformation. It should in particular form the basis for the formulation of all structural adjustment programmes. It was essential for the Committee to come up with concrete proposals to ensure the success of the Plan. To that end, the Committee set up a special drafting group to draw up proposals for consideration by the Ministers.

52. The Committee adopted draft resolution 1 (XII).

United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UN-PAAERD)

- Final Review and Appraisal of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 (UN-PAAERD) (agenda item 5.2)

53. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.17/5 entitled: Draft Memorandum by the ECA Conference of Ministers to the *Ad hoc* Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly on the Final Review and Appraisal of the implementation of UN-PAAERD. The Draft Memorandum had been prepared by an Intergovernmental Expert Group that met in Addis Ababa from 19 to 26 April 1991, in conformity with the decision taken by the Commission at its previous session.

54. The Committee noted that the expert group meeting had prepared the Draft Memorandum convinced that the principles of the Lagos Plan of Action remained valid, as did the tenets of the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation and AAF-SAP. It was also noted that the Group

had found that, while African Governments had fulfilled much of their commitments under UN-PAAERD, the international community had failed to do likewise. UN-PAAERD had for this reason not made the expected contribution to the development of the continent.

55. The group of experts had discussed the advantages and disadvantages of having a follow-up programme to UN-PAAERD, but had concluded that such a programme would not be ideal in the light of the plethora of international programmes of direct interest to Africa which had already been approved or were in the pipeline. It had instead opted for a New International Agenda for Cooperation with the international community that would focus on a number of issues crucial to Africa's progress and prosperity. Those issues related to debt, the commodity problem, South-South cooperation, subregional and regional economic cooperation and integration, and democratization of the economy and society and the full participation of the people in development. The group had also recommended that a high-level monitoring committee should be established to oversee the implementation of the New Agenda.

56. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the group of experts for the quality of its work. It endorsed the idea of a New Agenda for Cooperation, as opposed to a special follow-up programme, and stressed the need to put more emphasis on developing and maintaining an enabling international environment for Africa to develop on the basis of individual and collective self-reliance.

57. The Committee established an open-ended ad hoc drafting committee under the chairmanship of the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Expert Group that had prepared the Draft Memorandum, to re-examine the Draft Memorandum in the light of the following guidelines.

58. The Committee felt that the Draft Memorandum should include a section setting out the full justification and the rationale behind the New Agenda. It also felt that greater emphasis should be placed on the need to mobilize more resources to support the efforts of regional and subregional economic cooperation and integration groupings. The need to stimulate an increased flow of financial resources from the international community to support the continent's efforts to transform the structures of national economies into a sustained process of growth and development should also be stressed.

59. The Committee requested the ad hoc drafting committee to review the composition and the mandate of the proposed high-level monitoring committee. As the members of that monitoring committee were to come from all over the world, it would be costly and time-consuming to assign to it the responsibility of a secretariat. ECA could serve as its secretariat, as had been done with UN-PAAERD. To facilitate the work of the monitoring committee, targets were to be defined, at the national, subregional and regional levels, for each of the major elements included in the New Agenda. That work could be done under the leadership of ECA and the OAU.

60. On the issue of the limited success of UN-PAAERD, which was ascribed largely to the insufficient contribution of the international community to Africa's development during its implementation, the Committee cautioned members not to put the blame entirely on the other party. The flow of financial resources to Africa had indeed declined in constant terms (with a base of 1986) as shown in paragraph 29 of the Draft Memorandum. The Committee felt, however, that Africans themselves should strive to adhere to the principle of self-reliant development so that international assistance would only be a supplement to Africa's own efforts. In particular, Africans should develop and maintain an enabling environment for the democratization of the development process, which would include the full participation of the population, and ensure the accountability of economic management. Equally, emphasis should be placed on value added primary commodity processing instead of struggling to secure better prices for unprocessed commodities.

61. The Committee took note of the view of the observer for France that the two parties, namely Africa and the international community should submit a joint evaluation of UN-PAAERD to the Conference of Ministers in order to avoid a biased assessment. He observed that his country had made a significant contribution to the implementation of UN-PAAERD. He drew the attention of the Committee to the danger of

insisting on the cancellation of debt as that could have detrimental effects and might lead to the suspension of assistance by certain donors to the African continent.

62. Concerning the follow-up actions to UN-PAAERD, the Committee emphasized the need to focus on needs and problems rather than another special programme as four such programmes had already been approved or were under consideration by the international community. Those were the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, the New Programme for LDCs, UNTACDA II and IDDA II. The monitoring of all these programmes would already be costly and cumbersome for member States. The Committee recognized that some positive initiatives had been taken with regard to the debt issue. However, it found the efforts of the international community to be too little too late.

63. The Committee requested the ad hoc drafting committee to ensure that the texts in the different languages were aligned to eliminate discrepancies.

64. The Committee adopted the Draft Memorandum as amended and as contained in annex II.

Beyond recovery and towards transformation: African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-economic recovery and Transformation (AAF-SAP) (agenda item 5.3)

Progress report on the follow-up of AAF-SAP [item 5.3 (a)]

65. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.17/7 entitled "Progress report on the follow-up of AAF-SAP".

66. It noted that activities undertaken by the secretariat since the adoption of AAF-SAP related mainly to the operationalization of the Framework, its popularization, and efforts at building a consensus on it, especially at the international level.

67. The Committee observed that despite the exposure given to AAF-SAP in meetings, conferences, and in publications of ECA, the concept was still new in the minds of many African decision-makers and had still to bring about major changes in the policies of many governments and funding institutions. It further observed that in accordance with the strategy followed since the adoption of the Framework, the secretariat had continued to pursue the two-pronged approach which involved in-depth studies on the one hand, and the provision of direct assistance to countries and subregional organizations. The secretariat studies on the selected policy instruments of AAF-SAP had been revised and widely discussed at various intergovernmental meetings. In addition the secretariat was working on AAF-SAP models which would be tested under specific country conditions. The secretariat had also responded to requests from two member States for direct assistance in the implementation of the Framework. The Committee noted that the secretariat's capacity in this area would be considerably strengthened through the use of the recently established Multidisciplinary Regional Advisory Group (ECA-MRAG).

68. With regard to the popularization of the Framework, the Committee observed that the strategy had three components, namely the continued dissemination of the AAF-SAP document; the preparation of a popular version of the document, and the presentation and discussion of the principles at various forums. The period under review had also seen a major effort at the international level to mobilize people, institutions and the donor community in a consensus on policies for African development. That effort was in essence, a meeting between what had been perceived to be an emerging technical consensus of experts around AAF-SAP and the World Bank Long-term Perspective Study on the other. The effort had focused on how such an emerging technical consensus could be converted into a political consensus which would embrace both African and donor governments.

69. The Committee concluded that while work on the promotion of AAF-SAP had been steadily progressing, much still needed to be done particularly in the area of support mobilization at the grass-roots

level. The popular version of the document was particularly welcomed. The Committee urged the secretariat to disseminate that version as widely as possible, and to continue to intensify the assistance it provided to member States on the implementation of AAF-SAP. It was also suggested that ECA should direct its dissemination efforts towards member States, on the one hand by encouraging them to organize seminars on AAF-SAP and on the other to bilateral and multilateral development partners in order to harmonize the various economic policy instruments contained in the Framework.

Revitalization of long-term planning for structural transformation [item 5.3 (b)]

70. Document E/ECA/CM.17/8, Revitalization of long-term planning for structural transformation, was introduced to the Committee for examination.

71. The Committee reviewed the evolution of development planning experiences in Africa over the past 30 years. It highlighted the passage from the 1960s when development planning was a symbol of autonomy and progress, to the marginalization of these plans which were now substituted during the 1980s by SAPs. The Committee noted some of the main reasons for the decline of planning which included the inadequate utilization of national planning capacities and potentials both at the subregional and the regional levels. African development plans had depended excessively on external technical and financial assistance. Governments were also unduly concerned with such issues and instruments as balance of payments, prices, credit, monetary issues, exchange rates and external loans. Consequently, the planning process did not adequately include socio-cultural organizations, trade unions, the private sector, particularly in the determination of needs, priorities and development strategies. The collection and analysis of data for short-term management imposed by SAPs also contributed to the unreliability of statistical information particularly at the macro-economic level. The Committee also noted that planning in Africa had failed because of frequent deviations from set objectives and the lack of coherence between set objectives and the modalities for attaining them.

72. Why national development plans had so far failed, and why governments now resorted to structural adjustment programmes needed more serious thought by member States. This was important, the Committee pointed out, because the main reason that member States turned to SAPs was their incapacity to develop programmes that would generate the resources necessary for programme execution.

73. The Committee deplored the fact that despite the long experience with development planning dating from the time of independence, the integrated, multisectoral and multidisciplinary approach to development had not as yet taken root. In many cases, long-term development approaches had not been sufficiently adapted to current realities. In both the preparation and implementation of plans, consultation and the search for consensus in the allocation of scarce resources had not always prevailed. In some administrations, sectoral views had gained the upper hand. There had not been adequate coordination with the other relevant departments, to the detriment of the overall concept. That situation had led to incoherence in the implementation of government actions and the loss of the desired optimum programme impact.

74. The Committee expressed the concern that demographic factors which determined the human resource element in plan implementation had not been adequately taken as an integral part of the planning process, despite the fact that governments spent considerable resources on the collection of such data. Monitoring and evaluation were also not systematically integrated in the planning process. The assessment of the available national manpower capacity for programme implementation was rarely done.

75. The Committee recommended that thought should be given to the development of a new type of self-reliant and self-sustaining planning which will avoid the failures of the old approaches. This implied careful prioritization of development problems, on the basis of a framework that provided long-term solutions. Continuity of action was indispensable in spite of changes in government departments or in governments themselves. Reduction of excessive dependence on external resources for programme execution was imperative. The planning process should take into consideration the national, subregional and regional dimensions where there could be shared responsibilities for national problems which might have transboundary implications.

In this respect, the role of government was central to the mobilization of all national actors and the promotion of subregional and regional collective action.

Mechanisms for implementing and monitoring the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation; public participation in development planning and management [item 5.3 (c)]

76. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.17/9 entitled "Mechanisms for implementing and monitoring the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation".

77. It took note of the mechanisms proposed for implementing and monitoring the Charter which included the organization of conferences where grass-roots organizations such as trade unions and women's organizations could discuss the progress and problems encountered in implementing the Charter at national level.

78. At the level of international organizations, ECA had set up a "focal point" project to facilitate the implementation of the Charter. In collaboration with mass organizations, the project would assist in organizing meetings to create national consultative mechanisms for fostering the participation of people and their organizations in the formulation and implementation of national development strategies. The project would publish a newsletter and explore the possibilities for electronic communication links.

79. The Committee commended ECA for having initiated the idea of the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation and particularly for establishing the mechanisms for monitoring its implementation. It endorsed the project proposals as contained in the document and stressed that the implementation of the project on environment and sustainable development should include the education of the people in order to involve them fully in environmental management. In that context, it was important to provide them, particularly those in the rural areas, with alternative cheap sources of fuel wood in order to prevent forest destruction.

80. However, the Committee suggested that care should be taken to ensure that there was no conflict of objectives between the project's popular participation promotion concerns and its planned contribution to environmental management for sustainable development. It was further suggested that the project should be coordinated with similar activities such as FAO's follow-up activities on the Programme of Action of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development; the village level environmental management activities of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and UNDP's Africa 2000.

81. In planning for the implementation and monitoring of the African Charter, the Committee suggested that lessons from successes, failures and limitations of past and ongoing participatory development movements or programmes such as community development should be taken into consideration in order to ensure the success of the Charter as a tool for the democratization and development of African societies.

82. The Committee also welcomed the "focal point" project which, through the creation of national consultative mechanisms, would facilitate the implementation of the Charter. However, the financial implications caused concern. The Committee suggested that the implementation of the project should start with collaboration between social groups, NGO networks and trade unions, and governments.

83. Finally, the Committee requested ECA to generate projects on alternative sources of fuel wood, and appealed to UNDP and other institutions to provide financial support for the implementation of the national environment-related projects. The Committee further requested member States to ratify and implement the ILO Conventions on International Labour Standards and suggested that, in order to elicit popular participation in economic planning at regional level, mass organizations should be invited as observers to the meetings of TEPCOW.

Impact of structural adjustment programmes on population [item 5.3 (d)]

84. Under this agenda item, the Committee considered the documents E/ECA/CM.17/10, "Implications of the apparent impact of structural adjustment programmes (SAPs) on population" and E/ECA/CM.17/27, "Population information programme for ECA member States: Perspectives for the 1990s".

85. It noted that the data contained in the document were exploratory and that the assessment contained therein revealed that a determination of the impact of SAPs on the various population factors was difficult. The relationship between the two was implicit rather than explicit. SAP had not acted as an instrument for alleviating the effects of the current economic crisis in the region. The limited average growth rate of GDP during the SAP period, 1981-1990, was below that of population. That suggested, therefore, that SAPs had had negative impacts on the economies of the African countries that had adopted them, although that was not to say that other countries who did not use SAPs also had their difficulties. As regards the under-5 mortality and average family size, it was noted that the general indication was that, although other factors also influenced both variables, SAPs did not bring about the desired average reduction rates. The unfavourable urban living conditions in the face of SAPs, among other factors, had also tended to encourage urban-rural migration, thus strengthening the case for effective integrated rural development programmes. With regard to food production, SAPs had generally resulted in increased incidence of malnutrition, particularly among children. It was also noted that SAPs seemed to have the effect of lowering standards of education.

86. Some factors that deserved emphasis in future considerations of population policy measures as an integral part of the overall development strategy in African countries were also identified. Among those factors were under-5 mortality, family cohesion, malnutrition, education and employment. It was suggested that utilizing factors so derived would focus population policy measures in the region on the current economic crisis. For AAF-SAP to become fully effective, it should then take into account population factors.

87. The Committee recommended that:

(a) Generalizations about the total negative effect of SAPs should be treated with caution since a few countries had experienced some positive results with SAP;

(b) Appropriate socio-economic studies should be carried out by the secretariat that would be more conclusive in assessing the impact of SAPs on the social sector;

(c) Comparison of the pre-SAP period (1965-1980) with the SAP period (1981-1990) should be done with caution since the two periods are not only different in length, but also in terms of the prevailing international environment;

(d) Member States should give priority to collection of data on the social sector which in turn would permit studies on the social dimension, such as the one that had been attempted in the document discussed by the Committee.

88. The Committee also considered proposed mechanisms contained in document E/ECA/CM.17/27 for developing a viable regional population information programme that would enable the African region to promote the needed awareness and understanding of population and development issues which would be crucial for the region in the 1990s. It took note of the specific recommendations that were advanced, including the need to aggressively support the information programme, and for the donor agencies and institutions, especially UNFPA to support ECA in its efforts to develop, sustain and further develop its indigenous regional knowledge base on population matters.

89. The impact of SAPs had been negative on the social sector. While the necessity of SAPs was recognized, given the state of the economies of most African countries, there was also the need to develop programmes that would mitigate those negative consequences, particularly among the most vulnerable groups in society. The Committee particularly agreed that population factors, the essential needs of the population

and employment as well as measures contained in AAF-SAP should be integrated into development plans and should thereby complement SAPs.

90. The Committee adopted draft resolutions 2 (XII) and 3 (XII).

Preparation of the third African Population Conference [item 5.3 (e)]

91. Under this agenda item, the Committee considered document E/ECA/CM/17/6, which was a note from the secretariat on the preparations for the third African Population Conference.

92. It noted that, following the Accra and Arusha Conferences on Population, a third African Population Conference was to be held in 1992 in preparation for the World Population Conference in 1994. In view of the importance of the World Conference, the Committee expressed the hope that preparations in Africa would begin without delay. The financial implications of the required preparations were particularly underlined.

93. The Committee noted and accepted with satisfaction the offer made by Senegal to host the third African Population Conference. It called for a re-examination of the draft budget for the regional preparations for the Conference presented in the secretariat document in light of the offer made by UNFPA to cover the travel and subsistence cost of participants and the commitment it had also made to assist African participation at the World Conference.

94. The Committee finally recommended that a committee of experts should be set up to prepare the third African Population Conference; the draft budget on the Conference should be examined and amended as necessary before being submitted to ECOSOC; the third African Population Conference should include in its agenda the consideration of issues relating to refugees and migration in Africa.

PART III
ISSUES, STUDIES AND REPORTS ON REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

Reorganization of the MULPOCs: Follow-up on the report of the evaluation mission to review the achievements of the MULPOCs with a view to strengthening them and making them more effective [agenda item 6 (a)]

95. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.17/11 entitled "Reorganization of the MULPOCs: Follow-up on the report of the evaluation mission to review the achievements of the MULPOCs with a view to strengthening them and making them more effective."

96. The Committee took note of the fact that, following the Memorandum on the Report of the Review Team on the Structure, Organization and Operation of the MULPOCs which the Conference of Ministers addressed to ECOSOC in 1990, the Secretary-General had submitted a proposal for additional staff resources for the MULPOCs to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session. Eight additional professional posts and ten general service posts had been requested from the regular budget. Those posts were expected to complement the existing staff at the MULPOCs and would enable them to effectively execute the operational activities defined for them by the member States of the various subregions. The General Assembly had on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) decided that the proposals would be considered within the context of the 1992-1993 programme budget. That would be done on the basis of a clear indication of the specific work programmes of the MULPOCs, their relationship with the ECA secretariat, and a breakdown of the funding sources for the existing posts at each MULPOC.

97. The Committee reiterated the call for practical measures to revitalize and strengthen the MULPOCs. It in particular called on the African members of ACABQ and the Committee on Programme and

Coordination (CPC) to mobilize all the necessary support to ensure that the Secretary-General's proposals on staff and other resources for the MULPOCs were accepted by the General Assembly.

98. The Committee also recommended that measures should be taken to harmonize further the activities of the MULPOCs with those of the respective subregional economic groupings. It also emphasized the need for the establishment of the Preferential Trade Area (PTA) for North Africa, and that efforts should be continued towards that end.

Progress report on the strengthening of the subregional economic integration process and the establishment of the African Economic Community [item 6 (b)]

99. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.17/12: Progress report on the strengthening of the subregional economic integration process and the establishment of the African Economic Community.

100. Taking note of the progress made towards the signing of the Treaty for the establishment of the African Economic Community, the Committee reviewed the achievements of the African subregional economic groupings. It observed that, while Africa had made considerable efforts to achieve economic integration, the overall results were still below expectations. Nevertheless, the Committee soundly rejected the suggestion that there was no genuine process of subregional economic integration. It pointed out the achievements of some African subregional economic groupings, such as the PTA and SADCC, which were already making steady progress towards reduction of trade and non-trade barriers, development of common financial instruments (such as PTA traveller's cheques), and other basic mechanisms.

101. Failure to implement these basic mechanisms was still a major cause of weakness in the subregional economic integration process. There was also the need for institutions to adapt their approach to the African realities, and to increase the involvement of socio-economic groups in the economic integration process. Among other things, the Committee felt that issues concerning human resources development and employment would have to be addressed in the future. Particularly, it underscored the fact that long-term integration strategies required a clearer identification and agreement on priority sectors among subregional members. There was additionally the need to "create" intra-African trade, if that could not be done under existing trade patterns, by fully utilizing the existing industrial capacities and natural resources of African countries.

102. The Committee took note of proposals for strengthening cooperation and integration in priority sectors at the subregional level and emphasized that the goals of the African Economic Community would be better achieved if subregional economic groupings were strengthened as recommended in the Treaty. Besides the development of stronger political commitment, there was also the need to examine the leading role to be played by some countries in each subregion, and the role that informal groups of eminent persons could play in the integration process. It strongly recommended that the process of economic integration should be strengthened with a view to achieving the complete structural economic transformation of member States.

Industrial development in Africa

- Progress report on the preparation of the programme for the United Nations second Industrial Development Decade for Africa [item 6 (c)]

103. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.17/13 entitled "Progress report on the preparation of the programme for the United Nations second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA II)".

104. The Committee took note of the work that had already been done towards the elaboration of the programme for IDDA II. That programme would be adopted by the Conference of Ministers of Industry in June 1991. The Committee commended the secretariats of the ECA, UNIDO and the OAU for the progress made in the preparation of the programme. It underlined the importance of the industrial sector in Africa's economic development, and urged African countries to fully integrate the programme for the second

Decade into their overall national development plans. All economic agents should be involved to ensure strong sectoral linkages and should be allocated adequate financial resources for its implementation. While it was recognized that the responsibility for the implementation of the programme rested primarily with the member States, the Committee realized that financial assistance from the international community would be needed. It, therefore, commended the consultations initiated by UNIDO with international financial institutions such as the African Development Bank, the World Bank, UNDP and the European Development Fund, and appealed for the continued support of those and other agencies in the implementation of the programme.

105. The Committee further stressed that the implementation of the programme should be coordinated with ongoing programmes in the region, particularly SAPs and the UNDP fifth and sixth inter-country programmes for Africa. To the extent possible, the Decade should involve all economic actors engaged in the industrial sector.

106. The Committee recalled the financial problems encountered by the OAU, ECA and UNIDO in assisting member States during the first IDDA. It accordingly recommended that for the second Decade, the General Assembly of the United Nations should ensure that adequate resources were allocated for the provision of such assistance.

107. The Committee finally recommended that the next "Industrialization Day in Africa" should focus on IDDA II.

108. The Committee adopted draft resolution 5 (XII).

Transport and communications in Africa

- Programme for the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa [item 6 (d)]

109. In considering document E/ECA/CM.17/14 on the above-mentioned subject, the Committee took note of the activities undertaken in preparation for the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (UNTACDA II) since the sixth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning held in Kinshasa in March 1988. The highlights of the background information had been the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of resolution 43/179 proclaiming the period 1991-2000 as the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa; the establishment of the Resource Mobilization Committee (RMC); the preparatory phase activities of UNTACDA II; the establishment of the national coordinating committees (NCCs); and the establishment of seven subsectoral working groups and four subregional working groups.

110. On the activities conducted since the meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers in Tripoli, in May 1990, the Committee noted that attention had been focused on the creation of NCCs and the preparation of subregional and subsectoral strategies. Many technical and consultative meetings had been organized during the period. The work accomplished had been submitted to the eighth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning held in Abuja, during which they had adopted the programme for the second Decade, comprising the global and subsectoral strategies, the target objectives, the terms of reference of the RMC, the strategy for implementation, review and appraisal of the Decade programme and the guidelines and procedures for selecting Decade projects. They had also decided that the implementation of the second Decade programme should be reviewed every three years (mid-term review) and that new projects should be included in the programme every two years in order to make it flexible and to reflect current realities.

111. In Abuja, the Ministers had noted that many NCCs had yet to submit their projects to ECA and that many projects received by ECA did not contain important information. Under the circumstances, the Ministers decided to grant more time to ECA and the RMC to enable them to prepare an initial list of projects to be included in the Decade programme. They had also decided to hold a special meeting in Addis

Ababa on 7 and 8 May 1991 to approve the list. ECA and the RMC members had analysed 1,037 submitted projects, approving 460 of them, rejecting 102 and placing 475 on the waiting list for lacking additional important information.

112. The work of RMC had been approved and endorsed by the Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee during its last meeting in Addis Ababa on 29 and 30 April 1991. The list of projects approved would be submitted to the special meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning for endorsement.

113. The Committee noted the resolution on the Decade programme adopted in Abuja by the Ministers on 8 February 1991, and hoped that the ECA Conference of Ministers would adopt a resolution on the second Decade, and on the revitalization of the Trans-African Highway Bureau, for submission to ECOSOC this year.

114. The OAU, UNDP, ADB and the World Bank were thanked for their efficient contribution to the preparation of the Decade programme.

115. The Committee thanked the secretariat for the careful preparation of the second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa. It also requested clarifications on the review by TEPCOW of the report of the transport experts' meeting given that both meetings were being held concurrently. It also raised the issue of the low participation of member States in the West African meeting held in Ouagadougou and on the nature of the projects to be submitted for the Decade.

116. The observer from UNIDO commended the cooperation between his organization and ECA, and suggested that a working group should be set up on the manufacture of transport and communications equipment.

117. Responding to questions raised by the Committee, the Executive Secretary of ECA emphasized that the Committee had the report of the Abuja meeting on the Decade programme and that the meeting of transport experts which was being held at the same time as the Committee was dealing with the projects of phase I of the Decade. The report of that meeting would be submitted to the extraordinary meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning to be held on 7 and 8 May. Finally, the report of the Ministers' meeting would be submitted directly to the Ministers of Planning. He also stressed that the usual thing would be to submit to the Committee all the reports of the subsidiary organs before the submission of such reports to the Ministers of Planning, but that there existed a convention which allowed for the submission to the Ministers of Planning reports adopted by other Ministers.

118. In response to a question on the low level of representation at the West African subregional meeting, the Committee was informed that ECOWAS, and not ECA, had been entrusted with its organization. Since the work programme of ECOWAS had not allowed it to adequately prepare the meeting, the expected projects had not been submitted on time. ECOWAS, however, had undertaken an additional and conclusive mission. It was specified that in order to avoid changes in priorities, national projects were accepted in the Decade programme only if, among other things, the countries provided part of their financing.

119. The Committee adopted draft resolution 6 (XII).

Natural resources and environment in Africa [item 6(e)]

Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan (MPAP) including the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade in Africa (1981-1990) and perspective for the 1990s [item 6 (e) (i)]

120. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.17/15 and noted the progress made in the development of the water sector within the framework of MPAP during the 1981-1990 Decade. It also considered the challenges that should be dealt with in the 1990s to achieve a higher rate of implementation.

121. The International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, 1981-1990 (IDWSSD) had fallen short of expectations, notably in the rural areas. The implementation period of the Decade had witnessed an increase in the size of unserved population. Should past trends continue, the target of providing clean water and sanitation for all by the year 2000 would be very difficult to achieve. Hence there was the need to be selective in setting future targets and to carefully prepare the future strategy.

122. The Committee also took note of the main features to be considered in that strategy. These included the establishment of realistic targets by governments, promotion of population and family planning policies, adoption of low-cost technologies, introduction of cost-sharing mechanisms by means of tariff policies, increased community participation particularly by rural women in areas where the need was greatest, and integration of drinking water and sanitation programmes both in the context of national planning and that of environment and sustainable development. The commercialization of the maintenance and operation of water supply systems and orientation to the rural sector were perceived as sound approaches that would ensure sustainability.

123. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the secretariat for the quality of its work. The speedy privatization of the maintenance and operation of water supply systems would help to achieve the objective of food self-sufficiency, notably where the cost recovery might lead to a shift from food crops to commercial crop production. In subregions such as that of the Sahel, such management should be the responsibility of the concerned population.

Report on the preparations in Africa for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 [item 6 (e) (ii)]

124. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.17/16.

125. It recalled resolution 44/228 by which the General Assembly of the United Nations decided to convene a Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in 1992 in Brazil. It noted that the theme Environment and Development was chosen because hitherto environment issues were treated in isolation of the development process, despite the fact that many development activities had an environmental impact. The Committee further noted that the Conference constituted a twenty-year review of progress since the first United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm in 1972. It was also a logical follow-up of the activities of the World Commission on Environment and Development which the General Assembly endorsed by its resolution 42/187 on Environment and Development. The first African Regional Conference on Environment and Development had been one of the outcomes of that process.

126. The significant differences between Stockholm 1972 and Brazil 1992 were that the 1972 Conference was devoted to the environment in general without the identification of issues. For 1992, nine issues of global concern had been identified, which included protection of oceans and fresh water, biological diversity and biotechnology, waste management, environmental health, climate change, desertification and the living environment. The 1972 Conference was also, to a large extent, an intergovernmental Conference, whereas 1992 would see a Conference on "Earth summit", and a Conference at the level of Heads of State and Government in which the "independent sectors", that is NGOs, trade unions, business and all those whose activities, in one way or another, had an environmental impact, would participate.

127. The Committee observed that environment had become a vehicle of development, and had proved influential in negotiations on international economic relations and technical assistance. That would be an important factor in the situation that should prevail in Europe after the creation of the European Community.

128. The Committee reviewed the evolution of an African Environment Agenda (AEA). It noted that the Agenda was an outcome of the aggregation of member States' declarations and resolutions which affected the environment. These included the Monrovia Declaration on the Social and Economic Development of Africa 1979, the Lagos Plan of Action and Final Act of Lagos (1980), the Ministerial Conference on Desertification (COMIDES-1984), the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN-1985), APPER, UN-PAAERD, the Kampala Agenda of Action for Sustainable Development (1989), AAF-SAP (1989), the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation (1990) and the Bamako Commitment of the OAU Pan-African Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development of January 1991.

129. The Committee further noted that, apart from declarations and resolutions, the AEA demonstrated the fact that Africa had not been inactive on environmental matters. Other national, subregional and regional programme initiatives were gaining ground in the areas of environmental awareness, support from NGOs, intra-African exchanges of experience, popular participation and democratization of environmental action, enhancement of opportunities for women, and resource mobilization through environment-focused intergovernmental organizations.

130. The Committee further reviewed the African Environment Agenda within the context of six UNCED action areas, namely the Conventions on Climate change, bio-diversity and forestry, "Agenda 21" (providing measures for implementation of the principles contained in the Earth Charter), financial resources, technology transfer and measures for strengthening existing institutions. It recommended that in the negotiations taking place on the agenda of UNCED, the focus should be on the benefits Africa would derive from the different actions, and on how it could contribute to the global impact of those actions. The Committee further observed that the questions on the choice of environmentally safe technologies should be of utmost importance.

131. The Committee stressed the importance of building awareness on environmental issues, particularly among young people and women. It further emphasized the importance of offering alternatives to destructive environmental exploitation, especially when the environment seemed to be the only source of such necessities as energy and food, and cautioned that such exploitation should not neglect the protection of the atmosphere.

132. The Committee reviewed the programme of preparations for the Conference. It considered the documentation; liaison arrangements with the OAU in seeking the endorsement of African Heads of State and Government; promotional activities, and the agenda of the preparatory Conference. It noted with satisfaction that member States, assisted by the local UNDP offices, were taking part in the preparations by writing country reports and attending the UNCED Preparatory Committee.

133. The Committee felt that it was important for Africa to be judicious in its interpretation of issues of environment and development as well as in the choice of its priorities for the Conference. Both the impact of development activities on the environment and their contribution to development should be examined. In so doing the sectoral approach should give way to an integrated one which, in turn, should be adapted to development programmes.

134. The Committee finally recommended that, to ensure harmonization of the African position, ECA should exchange information with the other agencies of the United Nations system that were developing programmes for presentation to UNCED.

135. The Committee adopted draft resolution 8 (XII).

Social development and humanitarian affairs [item 6 (f)]

The state of social development in Africa in the 1980s and the policy challenges for the 1990s [item 6 (f) (i)]

136. Document E/ECA/CM.17/17 considered by the Committee under agenda item 6 (f) (i) was entitled: "The status of social development in Africa in the 1980s and prospects for the 1990s: Modalities of policy coordination policies and implementation by social sector institutions".

137. In the first part of the document, the Committee reviewed the major variables of the sector, such as education and literacy programmes, demographic variables, health and nutrition and employment and income levels. Stress was laid on the situation of vulnerable social groups such as women, refugees, displaced persons and young people. Generally, the Committee concluded that the economic and social crisis in Africa had had and would continue to have disastrous effects on the people. This was reflected in the continuous deterioration of educational systems in the continent, increases in population growth to alarming levels, the existence of infant mortality rates which were the highest in the world; declining health and nutrition standards, and excessive unemployment accompanied by the ever-declining per capita income levels. These problems were often worsened by a number of social catastrophes such as civil wars and social conflicts.

138. In the second part, the Committee reviewed the challenges confronting Africa in the 1990s. It was unanimously agreed that priority should be given to the formulation of policies for promoting the social sector in Africa, and to the coordination and implementation of such policies by institutions in the social sector. To this end, expenditures made by States on the sector should no longer be considered as a luxury, but rather as an investment without which the sound development and structural transformation of African economies could not be achieved. The four areas requiring the immediate attention of policy-makers, were, education, health, employment and population issues.

139. During the discussion, the Committee noted that, generally, the social sector in Africa had not been given due attention by African leaders. Nevertheless, there was consensus on the importance of the social sector and on the fact that new initiatives should be taken, especially at the national level, where political, social and economic actors should be sensitized accordingly.

140. The strategic importance of education in Africa was unanimously acclaimed. The Committee, however, regretted that the efforts made focused on the quantitative aspect of the problem at the expense of the qualitative aspect. Education should be reoriented accordingly. Similarly, greater efforts should be made to eliminate illiteracy, especially among women, since the ability of women to read and write had a direct impact on the other social variables.

141. The Committee also paid attention to the problem of unemployment, whose current rate and prospects in Africa constituted a challenge which countries should make every effort to address. That could be done by including labour-intensive projects in their economic and social development plans. It might also be necessary to attack the population problem at its roots by resorting, inter alia, to improving health systems. Those should be oriented not only to the curative aspects, but also to the preventive ones, so that some measure of confidence in the people would be inspired.

142. The discussions on the vulnerable social groups showed that the Committee wanted African countries to plan special programmes for assisting such groups, as was already being done in certain countries. In order to address all aspects of the problem, however, there was a need for countries to start with reliable data.

143. The following recommendations were made:

(a) African educational systems should be focused equally on the quantitative and qualitative aspects of teaching;

(b) Adult-literacy programmes should be strengthened, especially for women, given their influence on the other demographic variables;

(c) The Committee should prepare a resolution for the Ministers requesting Africa's development to give priority to the development of the social sector in Africa.

144. The Committee adopted draft resolution 9 (XII).

Changing socio-economic conditions of women in Africa in the context of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women [item 6 (f) (ii)]

145. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.17/18 on the Changing socio-economic conditions of women in Africa in the context of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women.

146. This document had been prepared pursuant to resolution 42/62 of the General Assembly on the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies. In paragraph 9 of that resolution, the General Assembly reaffirmed the need for the United Nations to develop an integrated system for the establishment of reports, centred on the Commission on the Status of Women. That system would take advantage of existing information and resources in order to ensure the follow-up, review and appraisal of progress made in the advancement of women, based on a clear and attractive series of statistical and other measurable indicators. Such indicators should enable member States to identify problems, and devise appropriate measures at the national, regional and international levels.

147. The Committee considered that the document presented a conceptual framework for long-term objectives of strategies such as equality, development and peace. The situation of women in political life and decision-making, as well as the sectoral analysis of the present situation of women in the areas of education, employment and industry, was also analyzed. Issues relating to rights and legislation as well as progress made at the international level, were additionally considered by the Committee.

148. The Committee noted that information on certain countries had been omitted and suggested that ECA might, in future, secure from the embassies in Addis Ababa information to complete its data. It was recommended that macro-economic analyses on the role of women in all sectors must be systematically carried out as a prerequisite for ensuring that women's concerns were incorporated in all aspects of development planning and for monitoring the impact of policy on women.

149. The Committee hoped that a detailed and complete analysis of the situation of women in the overall development process would be conducted, and called upon African women to secure, through better education, their rightful place in society.

Operational activities

- Report on ECA-executed technical co-operation projects [item 6 (g)]

150. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.17/9.

151. The Committee reviewed ECA's technical cooperation activities in Africa for the period 1989-1990. In the light of the general deterioration in economic and social conditions in Africa in the daunting prospects of the 1990s, urgent initiatives were needed in the technical cooperation areas. This was particularly the case with respect to the identification and prioritization of problems, the mobilization of resources and the

allocation of such resources among the various sectors into which ECA was to direct its technical assistance efforts.

152. The Committee noted with satisfaction that despite the unfavourable environment, ECA had successfully managed to mobilize substantial resources from diverse sources, notably from UNDP, UNFPA, UNTFAD and bilateral sources. Currently, ECA was managing a portfolio of 176 technical cooperation projects, spread over a range of sectors crucial to African development. The Committee appealed to donors to increase their assistance to ECA, and called for greater efforts to generate the resources required for the financing of its subregional and regional projects and other technical cooperation projects. In that context, the Committee commended UNDP - the main source of funding for such activities - for its sustained assistance to ECA and member States.

153. The new orientation being given by UNDP to programme and project execution, known as "national/government execution", was welcomed by the Committee. UNDP had adopted the programme approach, as opposed to the project approach used so far. However, the Committee warned against some conflicts which could arise under the new implementation modality, such as possible conflicts between the national programme managers and the national programme directors.

154. The Executive Secretary thanked all the donors, including the United Nations agencies, who had contributed to the strengthening of ECA's role as a major executing agency among the United Nations institutions operating in Africa. He commended the spirit and the quality of the cooperation that ECA had had with all those sources of funding in general and with the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa and UNFPA in particular. UNDP and UNFPA had played a major role in providing financial and technical support to the ECA-sponsored institutions and to the African subregional economic groupings. By supporting their multisectoral projects, UNDP had strengthened the African economic integration process. Member States' contributions to UNTFAD had also been satisfactory; however, African contributions needed to be significantly stepped up during the forthcoming UNTFAD pledging conference in order to demonstrate to the international community that member States were resolutely committed to African development.

PART IV

ISSUES FROM SUBSIDIARY ORGANS AND SECTORAL BODIES OF THE COMMISSION CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS (agenda item 7)

155. The Committee considered documents E/ECA/CM.17/21 and E/ECA/CM.17/21/Add.1.

156. It noted that the subsidiary organs and sectoral bodies which had held meetings since the last session of the Commission and whose reports were not the subject of separate items of the agenda of the present meeting were: the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment; the Regional Conference on the Development and Utilization of Mineral Resources in Africa; the Conference of African Ministers of Trade; the Africa Regional Coordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development; the Conference of Chief Executives of ECA-sponsored Regional and Subregional Institutions; the Regional Technical Committee for PADIS; and the Intergovernmental Committees of Experts of the five MULPOCs.

157. The Committee took note of the decisions, conclusions, recommendations and resolutions made by the above organs. It underlined in particular the importance of mineral resources exploitation in African overall economic development. It recommended that a comprehensive resolution be adopted on the basis of the conclusions and recommendations made by the fourth Regional Conference on the Development and Utilization of Mineral Resources in Africa with a view to revitalizing the sector.

158. The Committee expressed concern at the low level of participation and, in some cases, the inadequate preparations made for some meetings. It urged that an appropriate mechanism for consultation between the secretariat and embassies in Addis Ababa should be established to enhance the effectiveness of all meetings

159. The Committee appreciated the fact that the appropriate organs of the United Nations were considering the question of additional resources to strengthen the MULPOCs. It strongly urged member States represented in ECOSOC, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) and the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly to support the proposals for the strengthening of the Centres that were before those organs so that the required resources were made available.

160. The Committee urged that there should be closer coordination of work between the MULPOCs and IGOs so as to avoid duplication of activities in the future. In that respect, it was agreed that studies already carried out, particularly in the Niamey MULPOC, should be listed and made available to member States for reference purposes.

161. The Committee adopted draft resolutions 4 (XII), 7 (XII), 10 (XII), 11 (XII) and 12 (XII).

PART V
STATUTORY ISSUES

Follow-up action on relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the twenty-fifth session of the Commission, the General Assembly and ECOSOC that are of interest to Africa (agenda item 8)

> Follow-up action on relevant resolutions adopted by the twenty-fifth session of the Commission/sixteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers [item 8 (a)]

162. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.17/22.

163. The Committee noted that with regard to projects developed as a result of resolution 678 (XXV) on UNTFAD accumulated interest, one had been completed, five were at various levels of implementation and two were pending, following approval by the ECA Project Analysis and Approval Committee. With regard to resolution 679 (XXV) on Information flows in the African region, 34 member States had since designated national centres which would participate in the PADIS network. The national participating centres had increased their contributions to the information system. PADIS had also benefited from the office automation programme of ECA which was being implemented in 1991. Progress had also been made towards the establishment of WADIS in Niamey.

164. The Committee also noted that, concerning the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s adopted by the Commission in resolution 683 (XXV), both the English and French versions had been printed and sent to all African Governments. Their attention was specifically drawn to those recommendations which ECA considered highly important. The Committee took note of the approval by UNDP of a statistical development project under the Addis Ababa Plan of Action. The project would enable ECA to continue its assistance to member States in those sectors where statistics needed to be developed. An intergovernmental meeting would be organized shortly on the implementation of the Plan of Action, where future activities would be decided upon.

165. At its previous meeting, the Conference of Ministers had adopted resolutions 684 (XXV), 685 (XXV), 686 (XXV), 687 (XXV) and 697 (XXV) on women in development. In this regard, the Committee noted that the Abuja Declaration had now been published in English, French and Arabic and had been sent to all member States, subregional economic groupings and women's advancement institutions. The Committee noted that, with regard to the question of women in the informal sector, ECA had organized national seminars in four pilot countries, namely Burkina Faso, the Congo, the Gambia and Zambia during September/October 1990. The seminars had brought together officials of women's groups and NGOs to formulate guidelines for action in policy-making, training and statistics on the informal sector.

166. Under resolution 691 (XXV), ECA had widely disseminated the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation both in Africa and abroad, and had taken measures to set up a liaison centre at ECA for promoting popular participation in development, and for monitoring the imple-

mentation of the Charter. Under resolution 698 (XXV), ECA had organized special multi-sectoral missions to all member States to collect current data on UN-PAAERD. On the basis of the information gathered, a document reviewing the implementation of the Programme of Action had been prepared and had been submitted to an intergovernmental group of experts for the final review and appraisal of UN-PAAERD.

167. With regard to the implementation of resolution 699 (XXV) on Strengthening the African Institute for Higher Technical Training and Research (AIHTTR), the Committee noted that the management of the Institute had been streamlined to give a fresh direction and a new impetus to the Institute. Member States had since shown considerable goodwill towards the institution and a desire to see it succeed. The Committee accordingly urged member States to pay their contributions to the Institute.

Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its regular session of 1990 and by the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session in the economic and social sectors that are of interest to Africa [item 8 (b)]

168. The Committee took note of the resolutions and decisions adopted by ECOSOC and the General Assembly at their last sessions as contained in document E/ECA/CM.17/23.

169. The Committee appreciated the increasing difficulties with which resolutions with financial implications were adopted by ECOSOC and the General Assembly. It, therefore, expressed gratitude for the efforts made by the African Groups in Geneva and New York which enabled all ECA resolutions presented to ECOSOC and the General Assembly to be adopted, even including those with financial implications. The Committee urged member States represented in those organs to continue their support to the Commission.

Staff and administrative questions (agenda item 9)

170. The document on Staff and administrative matters (E/ECA/CM.17/24) was presented to the Committee.

171. The Committee noted that with respect to the geographical distribution of posts, the secretariat had made great efforts to maintain a fair balance between the staff from outside Africa and those from Africa. The vacancy rate had been significantly reduced and the training, staff and career development opportunities had improved. With the promise of Japan to provide $US 200,000 for this purpose, this improvement would be further enhanced. It also noted with satisfaction that the status of women in the secretariat had also improved, and the number of professional posts occupied by women had increased.

172. The Committee was pleased to observe that the conference facilities were also being improved in compliance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 42/211. The construction of the new conference centre was already under way. Internally, the secretariat was also working on improving the staffing situation of the Conference Services Section.

173. The Committee also noted with satisfaction that the automation exercise was well advanced in the secretariat. There had been a considerable increase in the number of micro-computers available to staff, and the printing facilities had been greatly improved. It hoped that, with expected increases in resources, those improvements would be enhanced.

PART VI
PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES OF THE COMMISSION

Proposed programme of work and priorities for the 1992-1993 biennium [agenda item 10 (a)]

174. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.17/25/Rev.1, "Proposed programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1992-1993".

175. The Committee endorsed the proposals contained in the document and appealed to the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) to support them as well as those to be made under the programme on Africa's critical economic situation, recovery and development, which would be implemented jointly by the offices of the Director-General, the Department of Public Information as well as ECA.

176. It appealed to CPC and ACABQ to ensure that adequate resources were made available to ECA to implement both programmes, and in particular to ensure that the focus of the implementation of the programme on Africa's critical economic situation, recovery and development was at ECA.

177. The Committee adopted draft resolution 13 (XII).

ECA Advisory Services: The challenges for the 1990s [(agenda item 10 (b)]

178. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.17/26 on ECA Advisory Services: The challenges for the 1990s.

179. The Committee was made aware of the significant changes which were currently occurring in the approach of the United Nations to operational activities. Those changes were designed to render the system more responsive and effective in meeting the challenges facing developing countries in the 1990s. The implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/211, entitled "Comprehensive biennial review of operational activities for the development of the United Nations system", was central to those changes. The resolution aimed at placing full responsibility for development within countries themselves, and at directing technical assistance of the United Nations to that level. The lack of a regional dimension in the resolution had given rise to consideration as to what the commissions might do in support of the multidisciplinary approach encouraged by the resolution, and what improvements in the legislative mandates of the commissions might be required to complement resolution 44/211.

180. In considering the first issue, the Committee noted with satisfaction the establishment by ECA of its new Multidisciplinary Regional Advisory Group (ECA-MRAG) which was based at ECA headquarters in Addis Ababa. ECA-MRAG regrouped ECA's traditional regional advisers into a team entrusted with the task of providing coherent and flexible solutions to the problems facing member States. The Group was a team of senior experts under the personal direction of the Executive Secretary and whose broad experience would allow African policy-makers to take into account the regional and subregional objectives of, for example, the Lagos Plan of Action, and the African Economic Community, in their national programmes and strategies. While the composition of the Group would vary depending on the needs expressed by countries, at present experts were drawn from the areas of macro-economics; food and agriculture; development finance and debt management; public administration; statistics and the application of national accounts to development; environment and development; energy; social and human resource aspects of structural adjustment and transformation; and regional economic cooperation and integration. While at present there were no specific experts in some areas such as population in ECA-MRAG, it was recognized that the Group would draw on the skills available in the substantive ECA Divisions.

181. The Committee urged member States and their intergovernmental organizations to take advantage of the advisory services of the Group by sending requests concerning problem areas to the Executive Secretary in Addis Ababa, or through the MULPOC offices.

182. With regard to the examination of the mandate of the regional commissions, the Committee made the following recommendations:

(a) The mandates provided in resolution 32/197 for the regional commissions should be updated by a new resolution, generated by ECOSOC, and adopted by the General Assembly;

(b) The Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation should explore the possibility of convening an ad hoc group of high-level experts during the second half of 1991 to discuss the revision of the mandate of the regional commissions, and make recommendations;

(c) Agencies of the United Nations system and of the United Nations Secretariat involved in technical assistance should meaningfully decentralize staff and establish joint units, sections or divisions with the secretariats of the commissions in general and with ECA in particular, especially within the context of the implementation of the special programme on African recovery; and

(d) The funding mechanisms of the regional commissions should be reviewed.

183. The Committee took note that a joint position was being formulated on this issue by the regional commissions. A study on the regional dimensions of development was being undertaken by the Director-General for International and Economic Cooperation (DG/DIEC), in close collaboration with the regional commissions and with other United Nations organizations and agencies. The DG/DIEC would bring to the attention of the General Assembly, through ECOSOC, his analysis and recommendations in his annual report for 1991. The Committee urged that this study should take into account the recommendations cited above.

184. The Committee adopted draft resolution 14 (XII).

PART VII
PLEDGING CONFERENCE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS TRUST FUND FOR AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT (UNTFAD)

Progress report on the implementation of UNTFAD-funded projects, 1990-1991 [agenda item 11 (a)]

Proposals for utilization of UNTFAD resources during the period 1992-1993 [agenda item 11 (b)]

185. The Committee considered documents E/ECA/CM.17/28, E/ECA/CM.17/28/Corr.1 and E/ECA/CM.17/29.

186. The Committee took note of the progress made in respect of the utilization of the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD) resources in 1989 and 1990. During that period, resources utilized to finance project activities amounted to $US 1,283,084 which represented the balance from previous contributions, payments effected in 1988 and 1989, and part of the accumulated interest on UNTFAD's general and specific accounts. The Committee commended the ECA secretariat for its judicious use of the resources. It noted that the progress report did not contain detailed information on the status of implementation of the operational projects financed within the framework of the ECA programme of work and priorities; and financial statements concerning the general and specific funds as well as the accrued interest on those funds. However, it also recognized that the report must necessarily be short and concise.

187. The Committee reviewed the areas on which UNTFAD resources would concentrate during the biennium 1992-1993. The areas included the development of human resources; the development of agricultural capabilities and capacity to address the recurrent problems of famine in the continent; the development of a self-reliant and sustainable industrialization; the strengthening of essential institutional social and physical services for enabling self-reliant and self-sustaining development; and, the development of projects designed to break new ground for subregional cooperation and integration. It, however, considered that the areas were rather general, and it was suggested that information on concrete projects should be provided in future reports.

188. The Committee appealed to member States to increase their contributions to UNTFAD during the pledging conference to be held on 13 May 1991 so that the activities envisaged in the 1992-1993 biennium would be adequately funded. It recognized that substantive contributions to the Fund could be in financial

terms or in kind. The governments of countries hosting the MULPOC offices were free to pay their pledges in local currency.

189. The Committee noted with appreciation that Uganda and Zambia had paid its arrears, and that Guinea was in the process of paying. It also noted with appreciation the intention expressed by several countries that they would announce their contributions at the forthcoming pledging conference.

190. Finally, the Committee, noted the great degree of flexibility accorded to the countries in general and to those hosting the MULPOC offices, in particular, for the payment of the amounts pledged. It urged member States and donors to pledge regularly, and to pay those pledges in a timely manner. It looked forward to further increases in the level of contributions.

191. The Committee adopted draft resolution 15 (XII).

Regional programme for the placement of African experts: A proposal [agenda item 11 (c)]

192. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.17/30, which contained a proposal for a regional programme for the placement of African experts. The Committee was informed that the purpose of the project was to prevent the emigration of skilled manpower from the region by offering those who would otherwise have migrated the possibility of practising their profession in Africa. The initiative would reduce the brain drain while helping African countries mitigate the problem of skill shortages.

193. The Committee noted that the proposal was based on the concept that most victims of the brain drain would rather settle in another country within the continent than migrate to countries outside the region, especially Europe and North America. It was recalled that in the African Declaration on Cooperation, Development and Economic Independence adopted in 1973, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU had come out in favour of the establishment of an Intra-African Technical Cooperation Bureau, which would enable African countries with a surplus of skilled personnel to make them available to other African countries needing their services. That would also give Africans the possibility of broadening their experience and would foster the spirit of cooperation and solidarity among African countries. It was pointed out that there were currently some 100,000 African experts working in developed countries. Experts in Europe in particular might face considerable difficulties when the Single European Act came into force. Africa needed the services of those experts, and that was one of the contexts against which the relevance of the proposed programme could be seen.

194. The programme was proposed for funding from UNTFAD and resources made available would be used to cover inducement, travel, insurance, bonus and other costs amounting to a total of $US 9,100 per placement.

195. The Committee found the proposal would indeed be relevant if it could help stem the drain of skilled African manpower towards countries of the North and facilitate the settlement of African experts in African countries. That represented a form of intra-African cooperation in the use of skilled manpower. Accordingly, the Committee expressed its support in principle for the concept of the programme, but requested that further studies on the detailed implications of the project be undertaken and submitted to its next meeting. The studies should, inter alia, examine the chances of success that the project had in the context of the deteriorating socio-economic conditions in African countries, the increasing unemployment of graduates and the importance that African countries attached to remittances from their nationals working abroad.

Orientation Paper for the UNDP Fifth Inter-Country Programme for Africa (1992-1996) (agenda item 12)

196. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.17/20, which outlined the priority areas of the UNDP Fifth Inter-Country Programme for Africa, as well as the modalities and timetable for its preparation and implementation.

197. The Committee expressed its appreciation to UNDP for assisting member States in their efforts at socio-economic development. However, it noted with great concern the reduction in the allocation of resources from $US 226.1 million for the Fourth Cycle to $US 181.4 million for the Fifth Cycle, and urged UNDP to redress that situation.

198. The Committee endorsed the priority areas as defined in the orientation paper. A concern was expressed by some members that the energy sector was not a priority under the programme. This concern was allayed with the explanation that energy matters were implicit under the regional integration theme. The Committee requested UNDP to give due consideration to the consolidation of projects started during the Fourth Cycle.

199. The Committee noted with satisfaction the decision to aim for sustainability in the implementation of UNDP-funded programmes and projects by entrusting where possible the role of executing agencies to African institutions. The Committee also noted that ESAMI was a successful example of the effects of this new approach of national execution on the institutions in terms of optimization of project objectives, institution-building as well as institutional self-reliance and sustainability. It underlined the need for UNDP to assist in creating the enabling environment which would allow national execution to become a reality and a success.

200. The Committee urged UNDP to adhere to the timetable leading to the approval of the Fifth Cycle Inter-country Programme and to make every effort to prevent the delays that had occurred during the definition and approval of some projects for the Fourth Cycle.

201. The Committee reiterated its request for coordination between the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa and the UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States to be strengthened through better project integration. This was particularly essential when there were differences in the definition of priority areas by the two bureaux. It accordingly urged UNDP to ensure such coordination between the two bureaux so that its intervention in the two parts of Africa was well integrated.

202. The Committee noted with satisfaction the excellent consultation mechanism used in the preparation of the Fifth Cycle and the existence of good working relations between ECA and UNDP on the one hand and between UNDP, United Nations agencies and IGOs on the other.

203. On the issue of the reduction of resources, the Committee was informed that that was due mainly to the allocation of more resources to the country Indicative Planning Figure (IPF) for the 29 least developed countries in Africa. It was also pointed out that, with the programme approach to be followed in the Fifth Cycle, the contribution of UNDP would play the role of seed money, attracting more partners to cost-sharing arrangements.

204. The Committee recommended the orientation paper for endorsement by the Conference of Ministers and adopted draft resolution 16 (XII).

Any other business (agenda item 13)

205. No issue was raised under this item.

Date and venue of the thirteenth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole (agenda item 14)

206. The Executive Secretary of ECA explained to the Committee that in accordance with the rules of rotation, every other meeting of the Conference of Ministers should be held outside the ECA headquarters. As the last three meetings had been held in Central Africa (Cameroon, 1986), West Africa (the Niger, 1988) and in North Africa (the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, 1990), priority should be given to East Africa and Southern Africa as the venue for the next meeting of the Conference. That venue would be decided after

consultations by the Conference of Ministers. He indicated that the next meeting would probably take place in April 1992, after the month of Ramadan.

Adoption of the report (agenda item 15)

207. On 7 May 1991, the Committee adopted the present report together with draft resolutions and the Memorandum contained in annexes I and II respectively for consideration by the Conference of Ministers.

Closure of the meeting (agenda item 16)

208. The Chairman expressed gratitude to the Bureau and to all delegates, members of the secretariat and all the technical staff for the support and cooperation in making the meeting such a success. He underlined the democratic spirit with which the decisions of the Committee were arrived at. The message, he said, was quite clear. Africa's development rested primarily on its own efforts. There was, in particular, need to enhance the economic cooperation and integration process, especially by strengthening the various institutions.

209. He then declared the meeting closed.

Annex III

MEETINGS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES HELD DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW (20 May 1990 - 13 May 1991)

Body and officers		Meeting or session	Document symbol
Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning		Eighth meeting Abuja, Nigeria 7-8 February 1991	E/ECA/TCD/74
Chairman:	Nigeria		
First Rapporteur:	Malawi		
Second Rapporteur:	Zimbabwe		
Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment		Sixth meeting Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 4-8 March 1991	E/ECA/HUS/ENV/6
Chairman:	Zambia		
Rapporteur:	Uganda		
MULPOC policy organs meetings:			
1. Gisenyi		Twelfth meeting Kigali, Rwanda 11-16 March 1991	CEA/GSY/MULPOC/REI/I/36 a
Chairman:	Burundi		
Rapporteur:	Rwanda		
2. Lusaka		Twelfth meeting Lusaka, Zambia 18-22 March 1991	ECA/LUS/MULPOC/MIE/I/32
Chairman:	Zambia		
Rapporteur:	Kenya		
3. Yaounde		Twelfth meeting Yaounde, Cameroon 26-29 March 1991	ECA/YAO/MULPOC/CE/XII/Ra
Chairman:	Cameroon		
Rapporteur:	Equatorial Guinea		
4. Niamey		Twelfth meeting Niamey, Niger 27-20 March 1991	ECA/NIA/MULPOC/90/XII/44
Chairman:	Niger		
Rapporteur:	Nigeria		
5. Tangier		Tenth meeting Tangier, Morocco 24-26 April 1991	CEA/TNG/MULPOC/RIE/I/28
Chairman:	Egypt		
Rapporteur:	Morocco		
Regional Conference on the Development and Utilization of Mineral Resources in Africa		Fourth meeting Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso 25-27 March 1991	ECA/NRD/FRCDUMRA/9
Chairman:	Burkina Faso		
Rapporteur:	Chad		

Body and officers		Meeting or session	Document symbol
Conference of African Ministers of Trade		Eleventh meeting Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 15-17 April 1991	E/ECA/TRADE/91/12
Chairman:	Zambia		
Rapporteur:	United Republic of Tanzania		
Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development		Twelfth meeting Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 23-25 April 1991	E/ECA/ATRCW/ARCC.XII/91/9
Chairman:	Ghana		
Rapporteur:	Rwanda		
Regional Technical Committee for PADIS		Fifth meeting Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	ECA/PADIS/TRC/8
Chairman:	ECA Executive Secretary		
Rapporteur:	ECA secretariat		
Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole		Twelfth meeting Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 29 April - 7 May 1991	E/ECA/CM.17/31
Chairman:	Zambia		
Rapporteur:	Morocco		

Annex IV

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

	Symbol	Title
1.	E/ECA/TPCW.12/1/Rev.1 E/ECA/CM.17/1/Rev.1	Provisional agenda Provisional agenda
2.	E/ECA/TPCW.12/Add.1/Rev.1 E/ECA/CM.17/1/Add.1/Rev.1	Annotated provisional agenda Annotated provisional agenda
3.	E/ECA/CM.17/2	Economic Report on Africa, 1991
4.	E/ECA/CM.17/3	The Gulf crisis and the African economies
5.	E/ECA/CM.17/4	Decennial review and appraisal of the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos
6.	E/ECA/CM.17/5/Rev.2	Draft Memorandum by the ECA Conference of Ministers to the Ad hoc Committee of theWhole of the General Assembly on the Final Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of UN-PAAERD, 1986-1990
7.	E/ECA/CM.17/6	Preparations for the third African Population Conference
8.	E/ECA/CM.17/7	Progress report on follow-up on AAF-SAP
9.	E/ECA/CM.17/8	Revitalization of long-term planning for structural transformation
10.	E/ECA/CM.17/9	Mechanisms for implementing and monitoring the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation
11.	E/ECA/CM.17/10	Impact of structural adjustment programmes on population
12.	E/ECA/CM.17/11	Reorganization of the MULPOCs: Follow-up on the report of the evaluation mission to review the achievements of the MULPOCs with a view to strengthening them and making them more effective
13.	E/ECA/CM.17/12	Progress report on the strengthening of subregional economic integration process and the establishment of the African Economic Community
14.	E/ECA/CM.17/13	Progress report on the preparation of the programme for the second United Nations Industrial Development Decade for Africa
15.	E/ECA/CM.17/14	Programme for the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa

	Symbol	Title
16.	E/ECA/CM.17/15	Review and appraisal of implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan (MPAP) including the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade in Africa (1981-1990) and perspectives for the 1990s
17.	E/ECA/CM.17/16	Report on the African Regional Preparatory Conference on Environment and Development
18.	E/ECA/CM.17/17	The state of social development in Africa and policy challenges for the 1990s
19.	E/ECA/CM.17/18	Changing socio-economic conditions of women in Africa in the context of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women
20.	E/ECA/CM.17/19	Report on ECA-executed technical co-operation projects
21.	E/ECA/CM.17/20 + Annex	Orientation paper for the UNDP Fifth Cycle Regional Programme for Africa
22.	E/ECA/CM.17/21 + Add.1	Issues from subsidiary organs and sectoral bodies of the Commission calling for action by the Conference of Ministers
23.	E/ECA/CM.17/22 + Add.1	Follow-up action on relevant resolutions adopted by the twenty-fifth session of the Commission/sixteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers
24.	E/ECA/CM.17/23	Resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1990 and by the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session in the economic and social sectors that are of interest to Africa
25.	E/ECA/CM.17/24	Staff and administrative questions
26.	E/ECA/CM.17/25/Rev.1	Proposed programme of work and priorities for the 1992-1993 biennium
27.	E/ECA/CM.17/26	ECA Regional Advisory Services
28.	E/ECA/CM.17/27	Progress report on the POPIN-Africa project
29.	E/ECA/CM.17/28 + Corr.1	Progress report on the implementation of UNTFAD-funded projects, 1990-1991
30.	E/ECA/CM.17/29	Proposals for utilization of UNTFAD resources during the period 1992-1993
31.	E/ECA/CM.17/30	A Regional Programme for the Placement African Experts: A Proposal
32.	E/ECA/CM.17/31	Report of the twelfth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole

	Symbol	Title
33.	E/ECA/CM.17/CRP.1	Review and appraisal of experiences in the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action in the food and agriculture sector (1980-1990): Tentative proposals for future action
34.	E/ECA/CM.17/CRP.2	Measures for harmonizing and integration of livestock development policies and programmes in Africa
35.	E/ECA/CM.17/CRP.3	Strategies for revitalizing Africa's trade recovery and growth in the 1990s
36.	E/ECA/CM.17/CRP.4	Public service ethics in Africa: Emerging trends and their implications
37.	E/ECA/CM.17/CRP.5	Public participation in development planning and management
38.	E/ECA/CM.17/CRP.6	Recent experience in public enterprise reform and privatization
39.	E/ECA/CM.17/CRP.7	TCDC/ECDC projects of selected African economic groupings to be implemented in collaboration with developing countries from outside the region
40.	E/ECA/CM.17/CRP.8	Progress report on TCDC/ECDC activities in Africa
41.	E/ECA/CM.17/CRP.9	Progress report on the implementation of the 1990-1991 programme of work and priorities

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